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Tuition hike limited to 5 percent

By LAUREL WILSON

Tuition caps for next school year were approved at the Council on Postsecondary Education on Friday, even though there’s no state budget in place.

The colleges approved Friday are 4 percent for community colleges, 5 percent for comprehensive colleges (including Western) and 6 percent for research colleges, said Sue Patrick, communications director for the CPE. The caps are the maximum amount state institutions can increase their tuition, she said.

That means next year’s tuition will be $3,780 for sophomore for in-state undergraduates, said Ann Mook, vice president for Finance and Administration.

President Gary Ransdell said a 5 percent cap was by far, he thinks, by far its a reasonable and fair compromise based on expected budget cuts and increased costs.

He said there are just a few 1 percent tuition increase to the Board of Regents at their special board meeting today, which means that, officials will proceed based on the assumption that the 5 percent will be approved.

SEE TUITION, PAGE 7A

Regents approve new programs

By SHAKIA HARRIS

Students still looking for a major will have a few more options starting this fall, pending final approval from the Council for Postsecondary Education.

Last week, the Board of Regents approved bachelor’s degrees in art history, fine arts and art education; administration and an associate’s degree in water resource management.

Art History

Assistant Professor Guy Jordan said the program will train students to critically analyze various art mediums including paintings, prints, sculpture and architecture.

Students will investigate historical and philosophical issues within the arts and gain a better understanding of how people use the arts to motivate rather than simply illustrate, he said.

SEE PROGRAMS, PAGE 3A

Ransdell reflects as administrative changes bring transition

By LAUREL WILSON

Gary Ransdell considers himself more among college presidents.

The biggest strength of a college presidency is five to six years, and it’s fairly uncommon for a president to be a graduate of the college where they serve, he said.

But Ransdell has been president for 12-and-a-half years and received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Western.

“We personally, it’s not be in this position at your alma mater,” he said.

The end of April marks the halfway mark in the Ransdell era — he took office in November 1997, and two years ago, he agreed to stay through November 2009.

At the halfway mark, Ransdell reflected on the process of transitioning, his accomplishments thus far, his goals for the future and the internal challenges in leading Western.

A Time of Transition

When Athletics Director Wood Selig resigned in February, Ransdell said it caused controversy that was at the “halftime” of his presidency.

Part of that metaphor is the re- leading of talent in key positions, he said.

There are 13 positions that have either recently filled, are in the process of being filled or have yet to be searched for, Ransdell said.

He said that until now, there’s been very little turnover in key positions, and it’s a natural time for so many positions to be changing hands simultaneously.

“You cannot expect to keep a senior leadership team together for the many years,” Ransdell said.

SEE RANSDELL, PAGE 7A

Recent high-profile personnel changes at Western

By TESSA DUVALL

With nearly 11 million students enrolled in the nation’s community colleges, officials are focusing the pressure to step up graduation rates.

According to a report from The Wall Street Journal, officials representing several hundred community colleges from across the country met in Seattle last week to sign a pledge to boost their graduation rates, which are at about 40 percent nationwide.

Nicolle McDonald, system director for transfer and transition for Kentucky Community and Technical College System, said via e-mail that KCTCS staff pledge to focus on helping students transfer from their two-year schools.

For the 2000-2001 school year, KCTCS awarded 22,744 credentials, which include certificates, diplomas and associate degrees.

There are several services available to KCTCS students that help them succeed and KCTCS also has transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities, she said.

In the coming years, KCTCS will place more emphasis on transferring to four-year schools, McDonald said.

Sheryl Reid, dean of Bowling Green Community College, said BGG is very different from the community colleges in Kentucky, including KCTCS — “it’s a moot point” in Western, Reid said.

They do have some things, such as adult learners and underprepared students, in common.

Community colleges pledge to improve grad rates

By TESSA DUVALL

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Land sale approved for Greek Village

By TESSELL DUVALL news@chherald.com

Fraternities at Western are closer than ever before as they have their own Greek community.

At Thursday’s Board of Regents meeting, plans to purchase land for a Greek Village on Center Street were approved. In order to buy the land, Western is first selling property to the city of Bowling Green, according to agenda materials. Western will use the money from the sale to buy the land on Center Street. This land will then be offered to fraternities to purchase.

Bryan Russell, director of planning, design and construction, said the location of the Greek Village changed from 14th Street to Center Street, where the new location of the new Gordon Ford College of Business.

This site was chosen for the business college after an architectural firm surveyed the campus and identified 14th Street as one of the best locations, Russell said.

The first fraternity to have a house in the Greek Village is Sigma Alpha Epsilon, which was able to raise enough money to buy the land on Center Street. This land will then be offered to fraternities to purchase.

At Thursday’s Board of Regents meeting, plans to purchase land for a Greek Village, Caylor said.

Currently, the Greeks are very spread out on College and Chestnut streets, and forming a Greek Village, Caylor said. The Greek Village has been in discussion for more than five years ago, and alumni have donated resources for construction of the house, including digging, insulation, carpentry and electrical work, Caylor said. “Everything has a Sigma Nu touch to it,” he said.

Starting construction of the new Sigma Nu house shows a commitment to the Greek Village, Caylor said. The program plans to help students understand the technical aspects of producing films, equipment, the use of technology and film software, he said.

Asian religions and cultures

Eric Baan, fellow, head of the philosophy and religion department, said the department’s objectives are to provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary program for students who are interested in the study of Asian culture in general, which typically ranges from the Middle East to Japan.

In terms of credit hours, the major would be small, but students can pair it with another degree, such as business or Chinese language, he said.

The program directly contributes to Western’s internationalization goals, Baan said.

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Free popcorn and gift for touring! Free T-Shirt with signing lease
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—Mandy Simpson
Key strategy

New hires critical to success of Western

THE ISSUE: President Gary Ransdell is officially entering the second half of his tenure at Western. Late-
ly, there’s been several departures in key administrati-
ve roles, and now he has the challenge of filling those positions with personnel that share his vision.

OUR VIEW: Ransdell has brought good things to Western so far, but now his focus must change from
improving the campus aesthetically to focusing on improving and strengthening academics through im-
portant hires.

Western has seen some nice changes in the past 12
years. The campus is prettier than ever with new trees,
sidewalks and sculptures. Each year there are new and
renovated buildings on campus and enrollment keeps
increasing.

In the years following Ransdell’s arrival, Western
was a destination for people to come work and teach
because it was up-and-coming with lots of prospective
students and the value Western places on traditions.

Now, halfway through Ransdell’s presidency, there
are key seats to fill that will have a critical impact on
the continuing improvement of Western’s academic
and athletic programs.

The new hires must understand the spirit of West-
ern and the value Western places on traditions.

Our view: Ransdell’s solid track record has the po-
tential to extend for the next 12 years if his selections
prove to have the same energy and passion for Western
that he does.

A gradual increase of the minimum ACT score re-
guarded for admission is in the works now, which we
hope will make a difference academically. A com-
petitive classroom environment makes students think
more critically and become more active in learning.

President Ransdell’s solid track record has the po-
tential to extend for the next 12 years if his selections
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This editorial represents the majority opinion of the
Herald’s 11-member editorial board.

...
Thursday, April 29
South Lawn
7-10PM  FREE EVENT!

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Poets

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Some of those who are leaving are retiring, while others are building on their success and moving on for personal or professional reasons, he said.

Ransdell said he’s accepting the opportunity to help shape a leader ship team for the next president. “We’re just adjusting our gameplay,” he added. “For a little bit, I promise you will have a strong team if vice presidents and vice president equivalents are in place for the long term.” He said at the press conference.

A few administrators who have been with Ransdell for a long time weighed in on the past and the future of the university. Ransdell is leaving this year after 11 years under Ransdell’s leadership.

“It’s been a real pleasure and absolute joy to be part of something so dynamic,” Selig said. He said he and Ransdell had worked very well together, and knew now Ransdell will handle a situation before he takes it on himself.

Ransdell has brought great improvements to Western, he said. “I would see the instruction shrinking a bit with the administrative changes,” he said.

Tom Hiles, vice president for Institutional Advancement, came to Western in 1998, only a few months after Ransdell took office. Hiles said Ransdell had held a job at the University of Kentucky just before becoming president at Western, so he knew how that came to be. Ransdell would be reaching him closely.

“I know he would be supportive, but that it would be a challenge,” he said.

He said he’s seen Ransdell grow as a president; that Ransdell has brought great improvements to Western. “What I most admire about him is his willingness to take calculated risks,” Hiles said.

Earlier this year, Hiles was feted as a finalist for a similar position at Illinois State University in Normal, Ill., but later removed himself from the search, saying it wasn’t the right time for him.

He said his other only comment about the matter was that, after 12 years, he took a look at another opportunity. At that point, he’s glad to be part of the successor measures.

The fact that Ransdell maintained the same group of administrators for so long is indicative of the leadership he said. “That leadership, or the culture, is a good thing to be able to shape the leadership team, Hiles said.

accomplishments, Challenges and Goals

Ransdell said most people would name four things as his key achievements during the past 11 years.

A few classes a year.

referred to main campus as tuition scholarship will re- tuition increase is that West- dents, the CPE mandates that tuition be at least twice as much as for in-state stu- dents, Patrick said.

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But even with those challenges, Ransdell said the university has continued to grow and improve the quality of the Western experience. Looking toward the future, Ransdell said Western needs to continue to strengthen academic quality while continuing enrollment growth.

A few years under Ransdell’s lead- ing edge, Western has to pay for the gameplan at halftime a little bit, Ransdell said. He said he’s seen Ransdell good to get new energy.

“I've not spent much time thinking about things that didn't go as planned,” Ransdell said. “I'm focused on the positive and the success measures.”

However, he said there have been two things he's found frustrating. Former Gov. Emmit Flescher’s vetoes of several capital construction projects, and the tough economic environment over the past 18 months, which has caused reduc- tions in state funding.

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YOGA/TAI CHI
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BOUNCING CASTLE KINGDOM
TIE DYE TSHIRT FOREST
Scholar-Athlete of the Year, is entirely a 3.0 GPA. Hall sessions for players and provides tu-
tings like your social life and sleep." Smith said. "You have to come up with the light on with my laptop do-
of the team is asleep on the bus, but I'm
still sessions," Robbins said. "It frustrates her grades.
risces she has to make in order to main-
tain her grades.
smallest, yet. Each semester she must send the
firm transcripts and keep up her grades.
pressure isn't entirely off her shoul-
Barr, he has to be ready for each play.
Smith will graduate from Western in
December and begin working as an au-
thority. "Discrimination is one less obstacle we need," said D' Andree Logan, a
alumnus from Thursday in Downing University Center. The event's purpose was to discourage
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ball coach was in a state of mind he
hadn’t often touch.
Head Coach Chris Ferrandia said in his of-
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closed — after Western’s 3-2
victory over Florida International. He
wasn’t quite sure where to begin.

“Your job is to get to the next
level,” Williams said. “I enjoy going to the restaurants
doing it from time to time, and Estrada said
he likes to find a fine median
between not doing too much but also
getting out and going around,” Sullivan
said.

“Every time you put up with that kind of
performing — I’m telling you right
now,” Williams said. “It’s playing guitar, playing cards with
friends, going to the movies...”

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Sophomore distance runner Michelle Finn runs the 400-meter race on Home meet provides 'learning experience'

**BASEBALL**

Robbins' offensive production outweighing his errors

By MIKE STUMGUN

A three-run home run by sophomore shortstop Logan Robbins in the seventh inning Sunday proved to be the back breaker for the Hot Rods as an infielder. He turned professional directly out of high school and said he was quickly surprised by the talent level. “I’d played against good competition but not every game,” he said. “Here, you see good pitching every day. It’s tough when you come out of high school, but once you get older, you start getting used to it.”

Sullivan has been in the college scene, but he said none Logan tall is a whole different story from his days at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. “As a starter (in college), I’d go once a week and kind of do my thing,” he said. “Here, you’re throwing a couple bullpens a week. You’re throwing long toss — you just give it all a week. It takes a lot of extra time to prepare. You just have to be on top of it.”

Sullivan said he has been batting .333 and raised his batting average from .169 to .234. “Everybody on the team know it wasn’t their fault that for long,” Wells said. “Logan works so hard and in such a kid that you would never think he could come out of school.”

When Lady Toppers senior Shannon Smith came to Western, she said it was because of softball, not for academics. “But the fall of her junior year in 2008, back surgery forced Smith to put down the softball and turn gave her time to focus on her accounting major. That fall, while looking for a summer internship, Smith attended ‘Meet the Firms,’ a function Women’s accounting department offers for students to meet with potential employers before the formal interview process. Three interviews and a drive to Nashville led to the world’s largest accounting firm, Ernst & Young LLP. Decided to hire Smith for 2009.

“My goal is to be the best student athlete I can be,” Smith said. “I qualified when they hired me, being an athlete is what made me more marketable. They knew I had time management skills and could work well under pressure. I guess you could say softball brought me here, but accounting kept me here.”
Bowling Green senior David Speth said he has always wanted to own his own business. His first idea was to open a Chick-fil-A, a restaurant he worked at for about five years, but when a space came up for lease on 443 College St., his direction changed.

He and friend Brad Anthony decided to open a skate shop and music venue inspired by the Nashville-based venue Rocketown. The Crows N3st's doors opened in March.

His friend decided to run the skate shop next door, and Speth took over the music venue. "I really wanted to reach out to skaters, college students, high schoolers — to everyone," he said.

The three in the spelling of the venue's name symbolizes the Christian idea of the Trinity, or the three divine persons of God, Speth said. The place is still in the planning stages, Speth said, as he walked around the venue, pointing out a billiards room and the garage-turned-concert room.

"I think I'll put the stage there," he said, pointing to the corner where a temporary stage currently stands, framed with string lights and a single floor lamp.

On Friday night, The Crows N3st hosted its sixth concert, featuring local bands Eventhesky, Racquet Club and Sleeper Agent.

Bowling Green residents Emeline and Bobby Essler were among the first to arrive. They said they're friends with Speth and that they had come to support Eventhesky.

Venue provides entertainment for all ages

By CRISTEN FRIDDELL

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Walker to attend mayors conference in China

Bowling Green Mayor Elaine Walker left on Saturday for a work-long trip to China for the sixth U.S.-China Mayors Summit, which is a conference between the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the China Association of Mayors.

The conference is located in Chengdu, in the province of Szechuan. Walker was one of four mayors across the U.S. picked to go on the trip.

The trip was coordinated and financed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, of which Walker is a member of the advisory board.

Walker said she is glad that a smaller city such as Bowling Green is given representation at the summit. Because only four mayors are attending, Walker said she represents more than just the city.

“I’m representing Bowling Green, but also Kentucky and all U.S. cities,” Walker said.

The summit’s focus this year is sustainable development.

Walker was asked to speak at the summit. She said she will discuss environmental protection in U.S. cities and sustainability in Kentucky and Bowling Green.

She says that’s an important topic because both Kentucky and China’s energy is based on coal.

Walker will also talk about Western’s plans to develop Chinese students as the university and strengthen relations between the Chinese and local communities to encourage understanding between the cultures.

“I hope to bring back ideas and greater awareness for Western Kentucky,” she said.

—Kristen Snyder

Waste recycling machine unveiled

By SHAKIRA HARRIS
news@theclass.com

In conjunction with last week’s Earth Day celebrations, officials showcased a machine they claim will recycle waste into energy.

Officials gave tours on Thursday of a device called a methane gas digester.

Onlookers observed the process of turning manure into a product called Ramsite, a recycled material that is environmentally safe and relatively odor-free, said Henry Blayhorne, director of Business Development and Sustainability for Organic Allergy, located in Smith Grove.

The digester is housed on the University Farm, according to Western’s Web site. A photo of the digester can be found at http://www.uky.edu/organicallergy.html.

A lot of the bacteria commonly found in cow manure is removed from the waste, which makes it pathogen-free and more environmentally friendly, Blayhorne said.

The digester extracts methane from the waste. Methane is more dangerous and volatile for the air supply than carbon dioxide, she said.

“One cow can have more impact on the environment than two cars,” Blayhorne said.

VENUE
CONTINUED FROM DIVISIONS

“I think this place has a lot of potential,” said Bobby Ederer. Those in attendance all seemed to know one another, greeting each other with hand-shakes, hugs and slaps on the back.

Stools and tables were set up in the corner of the venue, but no alcohol was in sight.

Speth said The Crown N.E. was designed to be the all-ages hangout where he doesn’t want to sell alcohol.

Hodgenville junior Julia Roberts and her friend, Fort Thomas freshman Elizabeth Gehring, scored the back of the room as they listened to the bands play. “I came out to see Rascal Flatts,” said Roberts, who follows the band on Facebook.

The girls both agreed they were having fun and that they were enjoying their first time at The Crown N.E.

“I love that it’s cool and grungy,” said Gehring with a laugh as she tried to shout over the music.

Speth said he has big plans for The Crown N.E. He’d like to book enough shows to have one every night of the week, he said.

Speth said he wants it to be “a place of opportunity,” a place of lives.

“I want people to walk in and feel at home,” he said.

The small-scale digester was presented to investors and the public to showcase eco-friendly technology, said Elaine Ferrall, dean of Owens College of Science and Engineering.

The digester is used to recycle waste into energy and would primarily help farms deal with disposing of, distributing and reusing their animal waste, he said.

The pilot version can facilitate about 1,000 kg of waste. Blayhorne said.

“The first digester in Kentucky and we really want more people to become aware of what it is,” she said. “We want to make people aware that this technology also exist in Kentucky.”

Ferrall said he’s been waiting to see the project will turn a good profit, but said it’s promising.

Building a larger-scale model will enable farmers to have more cattle on their farms. But right now, officials are unable to do so because the current manure could pose issues to nearby housing development, Blayhorne said.

Blayhorne said representatives from Organic Allergy plans to work with Western professors and students on the next version, so that they can use the digester for research and experience.

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Students battle in murderball tonight

By HANNAH DEMRIJAN
writing@chherald.com

Amanda Loviza has lived in seven states and visited five countries. And last semester, she studied abroad in Ecuador. There, she hitchhiked in the back of a buna
tuck and tried “fabuluses” (dried mixed smoothies from fruits) that had never even existed.

Loviza’s even eaten live, crawling ants. “Everybody else was doing it,” said the senior from Midlothian, Va. “In some areas of the rainforest there are ants that bite lemons.”

And she liked them. “They’re just like regular sidewalk ants, they’re too small to crunch. You just pick them off your fingers.”

She hitched with her class in the Tiputini rainforest.

The blue courts in Preston will give the student disabilities office usually enough room to move around and accommodate an audience.

Among the members of the audience, will be the men’s and women’s rugby teams. “We’re hoping to get a decent crowd,” Davis said. “We’re doing an exhibition game.”

The student disabilities office usually hosts one to two events each year at Preston Center and gives them the chance to participate in activities that they can play too.

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“The two are partnering so there’s a lot of interest,” said the senior from Midlothian, Va. “It gave me a new appreciation for my family, for home, for belonging,” she said.

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Students helpful in political campaigns

By MARY BARCZAK
news@chherald.com

Students helpful in this semester, so he thought this was a good opportunity to get involved with the party.

state senate. Gilliam said he knew he would be graduating from the press.

He has volunteered for other campaigns, such as Anne Norbert's congressional campaign and John McCann's presidential campaign.

as a career is being able to enjoy working with someone who is thinking about pursuing this as a profession in Bowling Green and was a summer intern for U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie, R-Ky. Bright said she thinks the recent young leadership on campaigns in Bowling Green is reflective of the nation's mood.

people that you meet on the campaign trail are different. "Every campaign is different, and all of the people that you meet on the campaign trail are different."

as Anne Norbert's congressional campaign and John McCann's presidential campaign.

Bright is also the Western College Republican president.

The most important requirement for a qualifi ed voter, not have changed party affi liation on campaigns in Bowling Green is refl ection of the nation's mood.

people really want to be heard and get involved in campaigns can do so by talking to the political science department.

parking in the grass. He appealed it, saying that one half of one tire was in the grass.

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College Heights Herald

reading this friday’s paper

And Win prizes!
Among the scenery of the historic ShakeRag district, the clammer of houses being built resonates. Families are sauntering into the soul food restaurant on the corner of Third and College streets, and little boys are dashing into the ShakeRag Barbershop to get designs cut into their hair.

ShakeRag originated around the old Lee Square near the north end of State Street. The ShakeRag Historic District got its name from the image of families hanging their clothes to dry outside, according to the Bowling Green tourism Web site.

ShakeRag was once a safe haven for traveling and local blacks before integration. The Southern Queen Hotel would house traveling blacks that couldn’t stay in Bowling Green’s white hotels, according to the tourism Web site. There was a “colored library” on State Street with about 3,500 books and a children’s room.

In 2001, Bowling Green started to renovate the downtown area, including the ShakeRag district, according to a pamphlet funded by the Bowling Green Enterprise Community. Despite the construction, preserving history is what the ShakeRag district is about, according to the pamphlet.

The area is rich in history of African-Americans who have called Bowling Green home since the early 1800s, according to the tourism Web site. ShakeRag is the home to State Street Baptist Church, the George Washington Carver Center, ShakeRag Reed’s restaurant and the Southern Queen Hotel, to name a few of the landmarks.

“African Americans started here,” Rev. Roger Reed, the reverend of State Street Baptist Church, said. “We were able to buy homes and businesses in this area.”

Reed said he likes to see students in the district even if they are unfamiliar with its significance.

ShakeRag is a reminder of what was once the only option for blacks (in color) in Bowling Green.”

The restaurant is the reminder of the history,” Bowling Green sophomore Jessica Blair said. “It’s a reminder of the history of the family and it being an all-black area.”

Blair said the names of the local businesses were changed in honor of the district becoming historic in 2001, and ShakeRag Barbershop was one of those.

Though the area has been promoted as a must-see for tourists, some students say they enjoy it for its back-at-home feeling.

“The shop has a great atmosphere,” Hopkinsville junior Michael Warren said. “The barbers all have different personalities and start talking about different things going on, just like family.”

By WHITLEY TOBIN
divers@chherald.com

OFFICIALS, RESIDENTS WANT TO PRESERVE SHAKERAG HISTORY

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