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2021

## UA1F Kern Alexander Censorship Vertical File

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55  
Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

Apr 13, 1988

Herald-Leader  
Lexington, Ky.

## Next at Western: no empire-builder

Kern Alexander is leaving Western Kentucky University to take a prestigious professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. His departure offers Western's regents an opportunity to reconsider just what sort of leadership their institution needs.

Alexander's 30 months at Western were characterized by controversy. The controversies began when he hired a dozen administrators without posting the jobs publicly. They continued when he decided it would be a good idea to move Robert Penn Warren's boyhood home from Guthrie to Bowling Green, but neglected to ask Warren what he thought of the idea.

The controversies mounted when he announced an expanded community college program at nearby Glasgow. And they reached a crescendo when Alexander proposed new rules for Western's student publications.

Alexander and his supporters say that these controversies simply indicate that Alexander had a problem communicating his ideas, and perhaps that is so. Whatever his

flaws, Alexander did bring to Western a love of the institution and a vision of what the institution could become.

But Alexander's leadership foundered because that vision was simply not compatible with the nature of Western's mission. Like too many presidents of Kentucky public universities, Alexander looked at his school and saw an empire to be built. Perhaps the realization that no such empire was in the cards helped him decide to return to the quieter life of teaching and research.

Western and the other regional universities need strong, visionary leadership. But their leaders' vision must mesh with the reality of those institutions.

The regionals, with their roles in undergraduate education and public service, are critically important to Kentucky's future. But these institutions are not empires waiting to be built, and any president who does not accept that cannot succeed. That's something for the Western regents to bear in mind as they begin the search for Alexander's successor.

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Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
APR 13 1988  
State Journal  
Frankfort, Ky.

551

## WKU publications review will continue

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander will remain "active and involved" in a controversial review of student publications, despite his imminent departure, an assistant to the president said.

Stephen House, executive assistant to the president, said Tuesday that Alexander has asked Nancy Green, publisher of the Palladium-Item of Richmond, Ind., and former student-publication adviser at the University of Kentucky, to continue the review.

House said Alexander hopes the publications review will be completed by August. He also said Alexander plans to appoint a panel of professionals to review Ms. Green's recommendations and findings.

Ms. Green said Alexander asked her to come up with ideas for the publications. "I was not given any specific instructions about the outcome of what I was to do," she said.

Alexander, WKU president since 1985, created a storm of controversy March 15 when he announced plans to install faculty editors at the College Heights Herald and the Talisman, the school's award-winning student newspaper and

yearbook.

He announced Monday that he will leave to take a distinguished professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va. He said he tentatively plans to leave July 1, but that he will stay on as president until the WKU regents name a replacement.

Ms. Green, too, expressed hope that the review will continue.

"If it's allowed to drop, a lot of questions will remain unanswered," she said.

Ms. Green said she is waiting to get information from the university about publications policies, operations, staffing and oversight before she interviews faculty members and students.

She hopes to be able to submit her recommendations by mid-May, she said.

Ms. Green's ideas will be reviewed by a panel of about 10 professional journalists and educators, who have not yet been appointed, House said.

Robert Adams, the Herald's faculty adviser and the interim director of student publications, said he does not think Alexander's decision to leave will have a significant impact on the review.

"I don't think anything detrimental to the newspaper will

happen between now and the time the president leaves," he said.

The review began with a committee meeting March 15, at which Alexander announced that he wanted faculty editors installed at the Herald and Talisman, which now are edited by students. He also said he wanted students to get academic credit for work on the papers and a faculty and student advisory committee to have greater involvement in the publications.

Alexander formed a subcommittee to draw up the details for implementing his proposals.

The reaction from faculty members — in journalism and other disciplines — students and professionals was negative.

Students marched on the administration building in protest, and the Society of Professional Jour-

nalists sent a fact-finding team to campus.

That panel concluded that "it is impossible to tell if President Alexander really did want to control student publications (and) turn the newspaper into a mouthpiece." But it said, "Prompt reaction and loud cries may have scared off a potential censor."

Alexander, who steadfastly maintained that he had accountability, not censorship, in mind, backed away from his original proposals and gave the subcommittee leeway in addressing his concerns. In its report, dated March 31, the subcommittee did not recommend faculty editors or academic credit, and proposed a more limited role for the advisory committee.

55 Clipping Division  
**Kentucky Press Service, Inc.**  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
APR 0 3 1988

Paducah Sun  
Paducah, Ky.

55/1  
**WKU begins publications plan review**

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander has announced plans for a detailed two-step review of recommendations from an ad hoc subcommittee concerning the school's student publications.

Alexander said Friday the first step will involve Nancy Green, publisher of the Paladium Item in Richmond, Ind., who will act as a professional media consultant and work with the subcommittee.

Alexander said Green will examine procedures used at the College Heights Herald newspaper and the Talisman yearbook. Green is expected to include in her examinations a look at funding procedures.

Green, a former student publications manager at the University of Kentucky and University of Texas and publisher of the Paladium-Item since the mid-1980s, met Friday with the subcommittee.

Alexander said the second step of the review will be submitting Green's recommendations to a committee of professional journalists for their consideration.

The ad hoc committee report, which was presented to the subcommittee on university publications, also recommends a 15-member advisory panel for the College Heights Herald. The group will consist of students, faculty and a professional journalist to be named by the Kentucky Press Association.

Green, who has studied the operation of 14 other university publications, will report back to the full ad hoc committee with her recommendations for the publications.

Her findings, as well as the recommendations of the full ad hoc committee, will be studied by a professional group of journalists before implementation. That committee has yet to be appointed.

Alexander said he hopes the changes, which he said are being sought to improve the quality of the publications, can be in place by the fall semester.

The proposals at first drew sharp criticism from opponents, who said the changes were an attempt by Alexander to control the sometimes controversial student newspaper.

Alexander said there was never any intention of censorship.

A fact-finding committee from the national chapter of The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, last week said there was no apparent danger of censorship in the proposals.

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332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
MAR 3 1 1988  
Record, Herald  
Greensburg, Ky.

55/1  
**KPA opposes restrictions on WKU journalism**

The Kentucky Press Association Board of Directors has unanimously endorsed a resolution that states the proposed changes in the journalism department and publications at Western Kentucky University would be detrimental to the integrity of the program.

The resolution was adopted at a KPA board meeting March 24 in Louisville. A copy of the resolution was sent to Dr. Kern Alexander, president of Western Kentucky University.

Alexander has suggested changes in the WKU publications operation that would allow for faculty reviews of stories prior to publication in the stu-

dent newspaper, the College Heights Herald.

KPA's resolution recognized the journalism program at Western for having earned a "reputation as a source of excellent journalists, in large part because students are now free to make decisions.

"The proposed changes would greatly harm the quality of the program and thus the employability of the students."

The KPA board went on record that it "vigorously opposes" any changes in the journalism program at Western that threaten the independence of the College Heights Herald, and Talisman, the school's yearbook.

55 Clipping Division  
**Kentucky Press Service, Inc.**  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
MAR 3 0 1988  
Green River Republican  
Morgantown, Ky.  
Circulation: 3,263

A few good words are in order for Dr. Kern Alexander, president at Western Kentucky University, and anybody else in on the decision not to go ahead with proposed changes that would have adversely affected the school newspaper, the College Heights Herald.

55 Clipping Division  
**Kentucky Press Service, Inc.**  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
MAR 3 1 1988  
Dawson Springs Progress  
Dawson Springs, Ky.  
Circulation: 3,424

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**WKU's President Is Head Of AEFA**

Dr. Kern Alexander, president of Western Kentucky University, was in Tampa, Fla., on Friday and Saturday, March 18 and 19, to assume the presidency of the American Education Finance Association (AEFA).

Alexander's term of office is for the 1988-89 year.

The AEFA and its predecessor, the Conference of Education Finance of the National Education Association, is in its 34th year. The organization, whose membership is made up of professors, educational administrators, legislators, and legislative staff, provides a national forum for discussion of issues regarding the economics and financing of elementary, secondary, and higher education.

The organization publishes and distributes educational materials including a yearbook which Alexander edited this year entitled "Attracting and Compensating America's Teachers."

55 Clipping Division  
**Kentucky Press Service, Inc.**  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
MAR 3 1 1988  
News-Democrat  
Russellville, Ky.  
Circulation: 6,553

1-55  
**KPA opposes changes in WKU journalism department**

The board of directors of the Kentucky Press Association Associates Division gave its "wholehearted endorsement and approval" March 25 to a resolution opposing proposed changes in the journalism department at Western Kentucky University.

The Kentucky Press Association Board of Directors adopted a resolution on March 24 that it "vigorously opposes" any changes in the journalism program at Western that threaten the independence of the College Heights Herald, the student newspaper, and the Talisman, the

school's yearbook.

The Associates board resolution endorsing the KPA statement said it did so in supporting "its member organizations, the University Publications Office of Western Kentucky University, the College Heights Herald and the Talisman."

Dr. Kern Alexander, president of Western Kentucky University, has suggested changes in the journalism program that would call for faculty review of stories submitted for publication in the College Heights Herald and the school's yearbook.

# Censorship at WKU unlikely, panel says

From Page B1

als for changes in the College Heights Herald newspaper and the Talisman yearbook.

Alexander on March 15 told a committee reviewing the publications that he wanted changes, including a faculty and student committee to prepare a budget for both publications and a faculty editor for the newspaper.

The newspaper has a faculty adviser, but students run the paper and control its content.

Some students and faculty members — along with professional journalists and journalism organizations around the country — reacted angrily. They feared the proposals would result in administrative control of the paper and a stifling of its ability to cover the university.

The review panel concluded that the "prompt reaction and loud cries" might have "scared off a potential censor" by causing Alexander to back away from a move to control the student newspaper.

The paper has covered Alexander and the university aggressively, and its relations with the president have been strained.

Attempts to reach Alexander for reaction yesterday were unsuccessful.

But he has insisted since the controversy erupted that his goal was never to censor the student newspaper or yearbook, calling censorship "obnoxious."

Alexander has said the furor resulted from inaccurate news media reports about his proposal.

The panel reviewed news re-

The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, sent a three-member panel to Bowling Green to review proposals for changes in WKU's newspaper and yearbook.

ports and concluded otherwise.

McMasters said the report concluded that news stories "did not contribute to the problem," but rather that any problems "were due to Alexander and his pronouncements."

Alexander's apparent shifting is one reason for continued concern that censorship still might be possible, McMasters said.

"There's some concern that he might stumble back into this thick- et," McMasters said.

The report said students and faculty should watch to ensure that Alexander's call for more financial accountability does not hurt the newspaper's ability to report the news and editorialize.

The panel's report also urged Alexander to review the lessons of the controversy, among them, "Get the facts before moving."

The report to McMasters was compiled by Robert K. Thorp, a former University of Kentucky journalism professor and retired Louisville Times copy editor; James Tidwell, associate journalism professor at Eastern Illinois University; and Laura Eipper Hill, publications adviser at Vanderbilt University and former reporter at The Tennessean in Nashville.

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Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

MAR 29 1988

Herald-Leader  
Lexington, Ky.

# WKU censorship highly unlikely, panel says

By Bill Estep  
South-central Kentucky bureau

Changes sought by Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander almost certainly will not result in censorship of Western's award-winning publications, a panel representing a national society of journalists concluded.

"The censorship issue, at this point, is pretty well dead," said Paul McMasters of USA Today, who received the group's report yesterday. Concern about possible censorship of the newspaper and yearbook has been at the core of a two-week controversy on the Bowling Green campus.

The panel traced the controversy to Alexander's seeming inability to "get across what he said he wanted to say" and apparent shifts in his position as the controversy evolved, McMasters said.

McMasters is a deputy editorial director for USA Today and chairman of the National Freedom of

Information Office of The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

The society, the nation's largest organization of professional journalists, sent a three-member panel to Bowling Green to review propos-

(Turn to CENSORSHIP, B2)

## Covert control 3-29-88 Herald

President Kern Alexander acted properly in establishing a committee to set up written guidelines for student publications. The purpose of the codification and publication of procedures is the elimination of the danger of an arbitrary use of unregulated power. It is society's means of guaranteeing rights. What is surprising is that the impetus for such explication did not come from the journalists themselves.

It is interesting that the explosion in the press occurred at the point at which the job description of the faculty role was to be discussed. The

## R

Herald should take care to see that its adviser's duties are clearly defined.

Whereas an editor's control is overt, the adviser's control is covert. Although he may not edit the final copy, the adviser's position of trust gives him ample opportunity to shape viewpoints. His suggestions can affect the student's approach to an assignment which can, in turn, affect the tone of the reportage and the content of the report. Because advice is especially sought in controversies, his influence on the student press, and, therefore, on the information it disseminates, can be critical.

The Herald's faculty adviser has always had a great power. A written description of his job will at least provide some guidelines for its limits.

Patricia Trutty-Coochill  
associate professor of art

## Alexander owed apology by Hughes

Editor, Daily News:

I would ask that Mr. Hughes apologize to Dr. Alexander for such irresponsible remarks and insults (Daily News Mailbox, March 20). The open-minded, liberal media sometimes seem the most closed-minded and irrational. Up with responsible journalism, and down with demagoguery!

Mr. Hughes, please leave the land of propaganda and arrive in a wonderful place to live, America, where the media in years past have aided the cause of the country that supports them by printing both sides of the story.

Larry R. Herrin  
1004 Boone Court  
Bowling Green 3-29-88  
D.N.

5  
Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
MAR 28 1988  
Daily News  
Middlesboro, Ky.  
Circulation: 8,901

## Western faculty

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander recently expressed the fact that he wants to see expanded faculty and administrative involvement in the school's nationally-recognized student newspaper (College Heights Herald) and yearbook (Talisman). Because proposed changes would result in the appointment of faculty editors, reports are classifying his actions as an attempt to muzzle the feisty publication.

We, too, see the move as an unnecessary one. ...

According to Alexander, the implementation of such positions would result in little changes in the way the publications are now being run.

Ironically, last November, a faculty committee Alexander instructed to review student publications recommended no substantial changes be made in the operations of either publication. ...

As we see it, limiting the freedom and creative abilities of the press, or even proposing changes that appear to suggest such offenses, is a serious and questionable course of action to be taken by any college president. ...

Our stance coincides with that of a profound adage ... "If it ain't broke, why fix it?"

— Murray Ledger & Times

# WKU censorship highly unlikely, panel says

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The panel traced the controversy to Alexander's seeming inability to "get across what he said he wanted to say" and apparent shifts in his position as the controversy evolved, McMasters said.

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Information Office of The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

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(Turn to CENSORSHIP, B2)

3-29-88 Lexington Herald-Leader

5 Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
MAR 28 1988

Messenger Inquirer  
Owensboro, Ky.

## Controversy nothing new for Western's Alexander

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander's proposal to install faculty editors at the student newspaper and yearbook is not the first time he has sparked controversy in his two-year tenure.

Soon after his arrival, Alexander appointed 11 administrators without posting the positions, causing considerable faculty unrest. Then he announced plans to purchase and move the birthplace of author-poet Robert Penn Warren to campus from Guthrie, a plan that aroused protest in the small Todd County town.

Plans for a campus in Glasgow drew cries of empire building and financial waste from some in higher education throughout the state.

The problem, some faculty members say, may simply be Alexander's inability to communicate his intentions.

"What he says he intends to say is not the message people are getting," said Eugene Evans, the faculty regent.

"We don't seem to be skillful enough in sending our message to the public," Evans added. "There is not enough thought given to the impact our statements are going to have."

Alexander, 48, was appointed Western's seventh president in December 1985 amid great hope and enthusiasm. He immediately announced plans to reverse the decline in student enrollment — and he has succeeded.

According to university figures, enrollment has increased from 11,259 in fall 1985 to 13,520 last fall, and the average ACT score of freshmen has improved from 18.6 to 19.1 over the same period.

More than that, said Fred Murphy, chairman of the Faculty Senate and

**'What he says he intends to say is not the message people are getting.'**

**Eugene Evans**  
faculty regent

a history professor, Alexander "has turned around the attitude of the university. No longer are we hunkering down. He's given us a vision of what is possible out there."

On campus Alexander is seen as an intelligent leader, but one whose difficulty in communicating and lack of contact with faculty has contributed to controversies.

The most recent began March 15, when, against last November's recommendation of a faculty committee, Alexander proposed installing faculty editors for the Talisman yearbook and the College Heights Herald newspaper, which frequently has raised questions about administration policies.

Alexander outlined his proposals — calling for "more direct faculty advisement" — to the faculty committee and then formed a subcommittee to draw up plans by March 31 for implementing his plans.

He called for the creation of faculty editors and an expanded role for the publications committee that would appoint them.

The words quickly generated an

outcry from students and faculty at Western and from journalists and alumni from around the country.

Alexander backed away Tuesday from his original insistence on faculty editors and gave the committee leeway in implementing the rest of his proposals. He said he wanted only to establish policies for the publications that would protect them from censorship.

He blamed the press for incorrectly reporting his intentions and accused journalism faculty of trying to protect their turf.

At a special meeting Saturday, the regents approved a resolution supporting Alexander's efforts to establish "guidelines which will insure fiscal accountability and protect the quality and integrity" of the award-winning student publications.

Censorship had never been the intention, the regents said.

Still, state Sen. Nick Kafoglis worries that a continuing series of controversies could hurt Alexander's credibility across the state, and in Frankfort, where the money for higher education is handed out.

But Kafoglis, D-Bowling Green, said Alexander usually comes out on top of these things.

"The good qualities he has come through and win him support in the long run, even though there is criticism along the way," Kafoglis said.

## Censorship of WKU publications highly unlikely, journalists say

From Page B1

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"There's some concern that he might stumble back into this thick- et," McMasters said.

The report said students and faculty should watch to ensure that Alexander's call for more financial accountability does not hurt the newspaper's ability to report the news and editorialize.

The panel's report also urged Alexander to review the lessons of the controversy, among them, "Get the facts before moving."

McMasters said the panel thought Alexander did not understand how the newspaper already is financially accountable to the university or how the newspaper works.

The report to McMasters was compiled by Robert K. Thorp, a former University of Kentucky journalism professor and retired Louisville Times copy editor; James Tidwell, associate journalism professor at Eastern Illinois University; and Laura Eipper Hill, publications adviser at Vanderbilt University and former reporter at The Tennessean in Nashville.

Bus plunge in India

55 Clipping Division  
**Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.**

332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

MAR 2 8 1988

Messenger Inquirer  
Owensboro, Ky.  
Circulation: 33,530  
33,895 (Sunday)

# Alexander's plans raise questions

**Editor's note:** The following is a roundup of editorials published by Kentucky newspapers on a variety of issues of interest to Kentucky residents.

55 Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander recently expressed the fact that he wants to see expanded faculty and administrative involvement in the school's nationally-recognized student newspaper (College Heights Herald) and yearbook (Talisman). Because proposed changes would result in the appointment of faculty editors, reports are classifying his actions as an attempt to muzzle the feisty publication.

We, too, see the move as an unnecessary one. . . .

According to Alexander, the implementation of such positions would result in little changes in the way the publications are now being run.

Ironically, last November, a faculty committee Alexander instructed to review student publications recommended no substantial changes be made in the operations of either publication. . . .

As we see it, limiting the freedom and creative abilities of the press, or even proposing changes that appear to suggest such offenses, is a serious and questionable course of action to be taken by any college president. . . .

Our stance coincides with that of a profound adage . . . "If it ain't broke, why fix it?"

— Murray Ledger & Times

55 Clipping Division  
**Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.**

332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

MAR 2 7 1988

State Journal  
Frankfort, Ky.

## KPA board attacks Western president

55 BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — The Kentucky Press Association has criticized Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander's original proposals for changing two student publications.

The KPA's executive board, in a resolution approved Thursday, said the proposals were detrimental to the integrity of the university's journalism program.

They also would damage the employability of Western journalism graduates, the resolution said.

Alexander has proposed replacing faculty advisers with faculty editors, who would then choose the student editors.

Western's board of regents scheduled a special session today to discuss Alexander's recommendations.

Board Chairman Joe Iracane said the meeting is "to set the record straight" about the College Heights Herald newspaper and the Talisman yearbook.

55 Clipping Division  
**Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.**

332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

MAR 2 8 1988

Herald-Leader  
Lexington, Ky.

## Editorials from around Kentucky WKU's student paper ain't broke, so . . .

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**Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.**

332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

MAR 2 6 1988

Daily Register  
Richmond, Ky.  
Circulation: 8,807

## KPA criticizes WKU proposals

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — The Kentucky Press Association has criticized Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander's original proposals for changing two student publications.

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# Press association criticizes proposals on WKU media

Associated Press

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Board Chairman Joe Iracane said the meeting was "to set the record straight" about the College Heights Herald newspaper and the Talisman yearbook.

The national chapter of The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, sent a fact-finding committee to Western this week to examine the proposals and see whether the intent was to stifle the student media.

3-26-88

Lexington Herald - leader

CJ 3/25/88

## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

EDITED BY WAYNE WELLS

### Regents to discuss WKU newspaper

**BOWLING GREEN, Ky.** — The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents will meet at 11 a.m. today to discuss plans by WKU president Kern Alexander to increase faculty and administrative involvement in the student newspaper and yearbook.

The meeting "will set the record straight," said Regent Chairman Joe Iracane.

In meetings with faculty and students this week, Alexander said he is no longer suggesting the imposition of faculty editors for the two award-winning publications.

That and other proposals Alexander outlined last week led to a storm of protest from faculty and students and from journalists around the country.

The Kentucky Press Association yesterday passed a resolution calling Alexander's original proposals "detrimental to the integrity of the Western Kentucky University journalism program and its student publications..."

The press association also said the proposals would harm the employment prospects of the WKU journalism students.

# Don't tamper with WKU publications

*The following is a roundup by The Associated Press of editorials from Kentucky newspapers or broadcast stations. The editorials have been condensed, but the intent has been left intact. They are not to be interpreted as editorial positions taken by The Associated Press or this newspaper.*

**Murray Ledger & Times:** Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander recently expressed the fact that he wants to see expanded faculty and administrative involvement in the school's nationally-recognized student newspaper (College Heights Herald) and yearbook (Talisman).

## State editorial roundup

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## Daily News

Founded by the late JOHN B. GAINES  
C. M. GAINES, Publisher from 1922 to 1947  
Daily News founded in 1882, Democrat  
founded in 1854, Messenger founded in 1908  
Consolidated January 1, 1917

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper as well as all AP news dispatches.

**The Daily News, Middlesboro:** News item: Study reveals tax forms harder to read than Wall Street Journal.

With April 15 looming, that's not-so-good news for many of us, especially here in southeast Kentucky where we have the state's highest dropout rate and among Kentucky's highest incidences of adult illiteracy.

According to the study, nine of 10 Americans with less than a high school education can't understand the instructions of the simplest tax form, the 1040EZ, let alone the complications of the 1040 and itemizing deductions...

Of people with some college background (the survey said) — less than two years — 50.2 percent (were) able to make sense of the instructions.

And those with at least two years of college fared best at 82.8 percent.

Unless quick action is taken, those that can least afford a tax penalty, the low-income earner and those on a fixed-income, will be hardest hit by the so-called new tax laws.

Taxation ... is supposed to be a fair process, not an exercise in contributing to poverty. Under the new laws and the IRS' penchant for penalizing the little man, the only winner is government.

While it gets richer, we get poorer. At this rate you can kiss the American dream goodbye.

## Berry's World



LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND INFAMOUS

3-28-88

# WKU board, president repudiate censorship

By Kit Wagar  
Herald-Leader staff writer

BOWLING GREEN — Regents of Western Kentucky University pledged yesterday that proposed guidelines for the student newspaper and yearbook would never allow "the slightest hint of censorship."

"We wanted to lay to rest the concern about censorship in the strongest possible statement," said Joseph Iracane, board chairman.

The regents held a special meeting yesterday to address the controversy, which has attracted nationwide attention over the fate of Western's student newspaper, the College Heights Herald.

The regents approved a resolution supporting university President Kern Alexander's efforts to establish new guidelines for the Herald and the Talisman, the yearbook.

But the resolution also promised that the guidelines would "protect the quality and the integrity of" the two publications.

Jo-Ann Albers, head of Western's journalism department, said during a break in the meeting that she felt better after hearing Alexander's latest position.

"I'm more optimistic now because he's gone public with his willingness to be flexible about the things I was concerned about," Ms. Albers said. "I'm hopeful that we can come up with a set of recommendations that are acceptable to (administrators), the journalism department, the Herald and to the profession."

She warned, however, that no one could be sure the guidelines would not be harmful until they were adopted and set in motion.

A group studying the issue is expected to make its recommendations by Thursday, Ms. Albers said.

During yesterday's meeting, individual regents echoed her comments.

"I feel 100 percent sure that none of these recommendations will contain the least hint of censorship," regent Patsy Judd said.

Eugene Evans, the faculty regent, said he would have to wait to see the plan before reacting to it.

"These are legitimate concerns," Evans said. "This has been a bit

(Turn to WKU, B2)

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Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

MAR 27 1988

Herald-Leader  
Lexington, Ky.  
Circulation: 10,200  
133,006 (Wed/Sun)

# WKU officials say newspaper guidelines not censorship effort

From Page B1

embarrassing to the university. But it would be more embarrassing if no questions were asked."

The controversy stems from a March 15 meeting at which Alexander told a committee studying the organization of university publications that he wanted several changes, including a faculty editor

assigned to the newspaper.

The newspaper now has a faculty adviser, but editorial decisions are left to the students.

Alexander said yesterday that he never intended the faculty editor to censor the newspaper. The faculty editor would have the same role as the faculty adviser, but with a formal job description, Alexander said.

The possibility that the propos-

als would stifle the student newspaper drew criticism from media groups across the nation.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors approved a resolution criticizing the proposals. The 600 members of the College Media Advisers group passed a resolution saying they "deplore this shotgun attempt at muzzling a quality student forum."

Alexander said yesterday that

the new guidelines were designed only to provide written documentation of past practices, give the publications a spot in the university hierarchy and create a formal process to adopt a budget.

The changes will strengthen the newspaper's independence by eliminating administrators from the university's publications committee, which oversees the Herald and the Talisman, Alexander said.

He characterized the proposals as part of the normal development of administrative policies at Western. The new guidelines were misconstrued to be attempts at censorship, he said.

"It took quite a leap to go from there to censorship," Alexander said. "The plea was to document what we did in the past so we would know what we are able to do in future. That protects the student

press. If there is any danger to the student press, or freedom of any kind of press, it is not having written procedures that everyone should abide by."

Ms. Albers said she was still concerned, after all the discussion of the need for documentation, that Alexander had not put in writing that he did not intend for the new policies to affect the content of the newspaper.

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332 Capitol Avenue  
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MAR 24 1988  
Messenger  
Madisonville, Ky.  
Circulation: 11,379

# WKU head pledges no censorship

By JOHN STRAUSS  
Associated Press Writer  
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP)  
— James M. Pittman, a Western Kentucky University junior from Harrodsburg, doesn't agree with everything he reads in his student newspaper. But taking away editorial control from the students isn't the answer, he says.

So Pittman, a black football player, didn't mind marching in a protest against a proposal to appoint a faculty editor for the award-winning College Heights Herald, a job currently held by a student.

"There are lots of things, like the black athletes, different activities that go on within fraternities and sororities, that should be covered," he said Wednesday. "But I don't think that's (more administrative control) the answer."

Pittman was among more than 150 students who took part in the protest against a set of

proposals by university President Kern Alexander seen as a threat to student control of the publication and the Talisman, the school's yearbook.

The plan also has drawn the ire of alumni, journalists and editorial writers and columnists at newspapers in Paducah, Owensboro, Louisville, Lexington and other cities.

ensboro, Louisville, Lexington and other cities.

The paper's treatment of issues related to Alexander's administration has more to do with the proposed changes than the paper's failure to cover some areas of student life, according to some who oppose the plan.

Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
MAR 24 1988  
Ky. Enquirer  
Covington, Ky.  
Circulation: 18,260

# WKU won't censor student publications 150 students protest against call for faculty supervision

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Faculty supervision of Western Kentucky University student publications will not be extended to editorial control, school President Kern Alexander said Wednesday.

"I don't know how that issue ever got raised because there is nothing in this (faculty) committee's report that would suggest censorship or redlining of anything the students have written," Alexander said before a protest march by students from the Downing University Center to the Weatherby Administration Building.

About 150 students, many carrying signs and chanting "Free press" and other slogans, made the five-minute walk to a grassy hillside next to the administration building, where Alexander's office is located.

Christian D. Ely, a junior theater

student who helped organize the demonstration, met with Alexander on the University Center steps before the march.

Ely acknowledged the school president's reassurances, also made in a speech Tuesday, but said the issue had been clouded by a lack of communication between the students and the administration.

"That's one of the reasons we decided to go along with this demonstration even after your speech . . ." Ely said. "We felt there were a lot of positive comments made in your speech yesterday. And we felt you had some good things to say about the Herald and what you want to do . . . And we also feel that if we had backed down from this demonstration that would only prove that the students are indeed apathetic and don't care."

Some students, faculty members and professional journalists criti-

cized earlier statements by Alexander that suggested school administration take control over the story selection and content of the award-winning College Heights Herald student newspaper and the Talisman, the WKU yearbook.

A fact-finding committee of the national Society of Professional Journalists is to examine the relationship between the administration and the publications.

Alexander said he would let journalists from outside the campus examine the faculty committee's finished report.

Alexander has proposed more detailed budgets for the newspaper and yearbook and suggested that they be assigned faculty editors.

"The reason I used the term 'editor' was because the committee which made the report . . . used the term 'editor' rather loosely . . ." he said.



55 Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

MAR 23 1988  
Green River Republican  
Morgantown, Ky.  
Circulation: 3,263

## A bit of wisdom from the ancients

As most folks in this part of the world know by now, Western Kentucky University president Kern Alexander has proposed radical changes in the way the school's newspaper, the College Heights Herald, is to be run in the future.

One of the changes involves replacing student editors with faculty editors. Alexander says the administration has no plans to censor, muzzle or otherwise exert inappropriate influence on the often-controversial newspaper, which has sometimes disagreed with his notions.

Nobody questions Alexander's intelligence, his status or his prominence in educational circles. But lots of people, both inside and outside the media, are questioning his judgement, and with good reason. (It is scarcely worth noting that Joe Iracane, chairman of WKU's Board of Regents, agrees with Alexander, since Iracane has become so adept at parroting the university president that any time he opens his mouth I expect him to ask if Polly wants a cracker.)

A present, the College Heights Herald is, in college journalism, the pride of Kentucky, and a model for other universities across the nation. And it is an independent newspaper. Responsible and ethical, but independent.

Kern Alexander wants it to cease being an independent newspaper, and to become little more than a classroom project, with faculty members, who answer to the president, in charge of the project. He denies this, but says he wants faculty editors, and is not the basic function of an editor on any paper to decide what does and what does not get printed, and how it is treated.

There's a saying that a wise man sometimes changes his mind; a foolish man never does. And another that says a man who won't change his mind under any circumstances is a slave to his own opinions. And yet another that says the only man who can change his mind is the man who has one.

Dr. Alexander, who has a fine mind, should change it. He's the only one I know of who has any problem with the College Heights Herald, and the reasons he has given for wanting to neuter the herd sire so far amount to a lot of bull.

A fellow named Homer had this to say about 850 B.C. "A noble mind disdains not to repent."

That quotation fits the situation, I believe. If not, then I fear that the one that follows does:

"Democracies are most commonly corrupted by the insolence of demagogues."

-Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)

55 Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
MAR 23 1988  
Sentinel-News  
Shelbyville, Ky.  
Circulation: 7,424

## Support for WKU

The student newspaper of the outstanding Journalism School at Western Kentucky University has been in the headlines itself during the past week.

WKU President Kern Alexander has decided to install faculty editors to edit the students' work before publication. That's a new and unacceptable procedure at WKU's student newspaper, the College Heights Herald.

The award-winning publication has helped train a large number of excellent writers and advertising people over the years, several of whom have labored at The Sentinel-News. We employed two Western seniors as interns last summer.

WKU has for several years been the leading journalism school in the state and nearly all those students have earned their hands-on experience with the College Heights Herald. The paper does have faculty advisors who have always done a creditable job keeping the student publication out of serious trouble.



by  
Jim  
Edelen

Sentinel-News  
Editor-Publisher

President Alexander has not clearly stated his reasons for changing to a faculty editing set-up at WKU, but we hope he will realize that throwing the First Amendment out the window is not in the best interest of his university.

PCDN  
3-24-88

# Censorship issue cannot be ignored

Rightly or wrongly, Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander has created a furor with his planned changes in the administrative structure of the student newspaper and yearbook.

the administration. Alexander says, however, that censorship is not intended.

He says it actually would be prevented by making sure the publications director reports to someone, such as the dean of Potter College, who would act as a buffer between the publications director and the president.

### Editorial

The controversy can only harm both Western and Alexander and should be resolved as quickly as possible while making sure fears of censorship are allayed.

The uproar began after a review of the publications by an ad hoc committee appointed by Alexander.

Alexander said the committee did not go far enough in addressing administrative organization, academic attachment or financial responsibility of the publications.

He then gave a subcommittee of the ad hoc committee the responsibility for implementing changes he believes are needed.

Critics charge Alexander's plans would result in editorial control of the publications by

Before the current interim publications director, Bob Adams, took over, the publications director had reported to the office of the vice president for academic affairs.

Alexander also is concerned about financial accountability for the almost \$200,000 spent each year by the publications.

We can't fault Alexander for those positions, but we also understand the concern of critics toward other aspects of his plan.

What is needed is a thorough evaluation of Alexander's plan free from the emotions generated by cries of censorship. Only in that way can Alexander and his critics be satisfied that all concerns have been properly addressed.

That's why we're glad Alexander said Tuesday that he will have professional journalists review the results when the subcommittee has completed its work.

If these journalists decide that implementing Alexander's proposals would create the potential for censorship, we hope he and the regents supporting the plan will accept the findings and reconsider their stance.

It is important that such publications remain the voice of the students rather than of the administration, while at the same time assuring more financial responsibility and the best professional training possible.



55 Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

MAR 23 1988

Ky. New Era  
Hopkinsville, Ky.  
Circulation: 15,961

# Alexander<sup>55</sup> remains firm on newspaper issue

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander said he will not back down from his decision that there needs to be more administrative control over the school's student newspaper and yearbook.

Alexander told the Faculty Senate on Tuesday that he was beginning to have second thoughts about pursuing the matter earlier in the day, but that he is sticking with his decision.

"I don't think that we're doing anything wrong here. We've got a faculty committee meeting to earnestly discuss this," he said. "I think we should continue and go with the faculty committee's recommendations."

Alexander did soften a bit and said that a group of outside journalists would be allowed to review the committee's finished report.

Talk of Alexander's possible changes in the running of the award-winning College Heights Herald, the student

"I don't think that we're doing anything wrong here. We've got a faculty committee meeting to earnestly discuss this."

— WKU president

publication, and the Talisman, the WKU yearbook, has drawn criticism from professional journalists, students and some faculty.

The national Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, has put together a fact-finding committee to look into Alexander's proposals and the relationship between the administration and the publication.

Alexander's remarks came on the eve of today's planned student demonstration against the proposed changes, which was to include a march on the administration building.

Alexander has proposed that faculty editors be assigned to the publications, which now have faculty advisers, and

student editors. The students now have authority over what goes into the newspaper and its editorial content.

Under Alexander's plan, the faculty editors would then select student editors, who currently are selected by their predecessors and faculty advisers.

"The problem is there are no rules, no regulations, no operating standards for university publications," Alexander told the Bowling Green Daily News prior to the meeting.

"The criticism is coming from several of those who just do not want any rules. That's what the outcry is against."

Alexander said the changes are not

an attempt at censorship, but rather a move for more fiscal control over the newspapers.

Alexander said he is flexible on some of his proposals, including one to offer academic credit for working on the newspapers, which now are independent from classroom activities. But he said he will remain firm on setting forth a detailed budget and a chain of command for the student publications.

"There's \$100,000 to \$200,000 a year coming into student publications and it comes in and is just signed out; there's no budget and no financial constraints. What we need is a financial plan and review."

However, Robert Adams, the Herald adviser and interim director of publications, said the department fills out a university budget request form each year and submits it to the dean of the Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

55 Clipping Division  
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332 Capitol Avenue  
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MAR 22 1988

The Gleaner  
Henderson, Ky.  
Circulation: 10,721

## WKU students to demonstrate against plan

BOWLING GREEN (AP) — Students at Western Kentucky University plan a demonstration Wednesday to protest a proposal that critics say would place more administrative control over the college's yearbook and newspaper.

The all-day demonstration at the Dero Downing University Center is being organized by theater and government students, who fear their departments may suffer if university President Kern Alexander is successful in his plan for the College Heights Herald and the Talisman.

"If Dr. Alexander can do this to the Herald, he can do this to any department," said Bruce Cambron, a government and history student.

"He's going to limit the education of everyone on campus," said Melissa Cornett, a government student. "Everybody will lose out."

The demonstration will include a march on the administration building.

Joe Iracane, chairman of the college's board of regents, has blamed The Courier-Journal for the public outcry over Alexander's proposal to assign faculty editors for the publications, which now have faculty advisers. The faculty editors then would select student editors, who have been selected by their predecessors and faculty advisers.

55

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MAR 21 1988

Times - Tribune  
Corbin, Ky.  
Circulation: 8,028  
8,445 (Sunday)



**Gene  
Cantrell  
Jr.**

## A difference

A young and impressionable filly said Sunday that many in her age group (obviously young) wished they had been in high school and college in the 1960s.

Everything was so relevant then, she suggested.

The times don't make relevancy, people do.

Ronald Reagan is capable of sending people into the streets in protest, just like Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

He hasn't done that yet because his actions haven't touched the lives of enough young Americans.

The demonstrators I saw on television Friday night were old hippies like me who haven't had much to get upset about in 20 years.

Sending troops to Central America, however, seems little reason to protest.

Maybe I am getting older and more conservative, but actually a little muscle flexing seems in order.

If times were different, and young Americans by the hundreds of thousands were being sent to fight an undeclared war, then I'd say that was relevant.

Now, about things that ARE relevant.

Freedom of the press. If the Supreme Court's misguided decision that school publications may be censored by administrators wasn't bad enough, Western Kentucky University president has decided to target one of the southeastern United States' best campus journalism efforts for some administrative intrusion.

WKU President Kern Alexander wants faculty editors for the college newspaper and yearbook.

He wants stories in the College Heights Herald reviewed before they are published.

The campus newspaper has been critical of Alexander in recent stories and his latest edict smacks of some heavy handedness which would have sent "my generation" into the streets.

Civil disobedience is by no means acceptable to me anymore.

But, unresponsive bureaucrats, careless public management, irresponsible elected officials, and generally uncaring people cause me to feel young again, like I did when it was 1968 and Mayor Daley ruled Chicago and the Democrat national convention.

America changed 20 years ago, and may be ripe for another change today as a generation of yippie kids park their BMWs and laugh at their parents' self-centered approach to life.

Wish it were the 1960s again? Not me.

I really believe "the times, they are changin'."

And, if not me, my children will make a difference in this world.

Perhaps my greatest handicap has been that I never gave up trying nor believed that one person can't make a difference.

I see some of that hard headed youthful optimism today and it gives me hope.

X

## Claiming Carbondale

CS 5/27/88

**T**HEIR similar-sounding names are a coincidence, but once again a pronouncement from Kern Alexander brings to mind lines from *Kubla Khan*:

*Beware! Beware!*

*His flashing eyes, his floating hair!*

*Weave a circle round him thrice,  
And close your eyes with holy dread ...*

Now that the Western Kentucky University president has staked out a second campus near where Barren, the sacred river, runs, he is plunging across the plain and over the mighty Ohio River, to Carbondale. There he plans to build a "co-operative" arrangement with Southern Illinois University that will let Western students begin work on doctoral programs in Bowling Green.

No matter that SIU is 225 miles away. No matter that similar arrangements could be made with Kentucky schools. No matter that Western students may have more urgent academic needs than another route to a Ph.D.

Instead of doctorates, one might expect Western to concentrate on its graduate program in, say, business, which has never been accredited. Wouldn't that be a higher priority in a rapidly growing area like Bowling Green? Instead, Western is phasing out its M.B.A.

Free-lancing an arrangement with SIU flies in the face of endless efforts to insure that Kentucky has a coordinated system of higher education. Expansion of any public institution should come as part of an orderly process overseen by the Council on Higher Education, not as a result of power grabs by people who may be more aggressive and less collegial than their peers.

This is the lesson for the WKU board, which seems to have clucked approvingly as Mr. Alexander pecked at new territories.

Ultimately, the analogy with Kubla Kahn is not so apt. The earlier Kubla was a mighty and effective warrior, whereas Kern Alexander has been a banty rooster of a president. But he's leaving Western. It's morning in Bowling Green. We bid him cock-a-doodle-doo.

SS Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

Crittenden Press  
Marion, Ky.  
Circulation: 4,505

# Disagreement proves truth of press adage

If the truth were told, I suspect Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander would acknowledge the accuracy of the adage that one ought not pick a fight with people who buy paper by the ton and ink by the barrel.

Surely Alexander didn't understand that old saying which means you don't win a fight with a newspaper.

Or else, maybe he just didn't believe it when a few weeks ago he attempted to muzzle *The College Heights Herald*, the university's award-winning student newspaper.

Anyhow, now he's going—leaving Western to accept a distinguished professorship in Virginia—and the *Herald* has emerged from the scrap stronger than ever.

Certainly Alexander's proposal to put faculty editors in charge of the paper earned him a lot of ink from other papers from around the country—and none of them had anything good to say about him.

*The Courier-Journal* devoted a tremendous amount of paper and ink to his proposals. Other papers, too, picked up the story and kept it alive.

I quit counting at 94. That's the number of separate articles, editorials and letters to the editor I saw on the subject as it unfolded over about a three-week period.

At least 14 newspapers—including *The Lexington Herald-Leader*, *The Paducah Sun*, *The Atlanta Constitution*, *The Glas-*

It's  
neither here  
nor there

John Lucas



*gow Daily Times*, *The Nashville Banner*, *The Tennessean*, *The Murray Ledger & Times*, *The Kentucky Post* and *The Daily News* at Bowling Green—kept the story alive.

Editor & Publisher, the voice of the publishing industry, devoted an unprecedented three and a half pages to the issue.

The Kentucky Press Association, College Media Advisors, Inc., of New York and Western Kentucky University Student Publications Alumni Association all passed resolutions deploring Alexander's plan.

Students staged a 1960s-style protest rally in support of the *Herald* and publications department.

A three-member investigative panel from Sigma Delta Chi, Society of Professional Journalists, spent two days on the campus interviewing people about the controversy.

Its final report was that it was "impossible to tell if Alexander really did want to control student publications and turn the newspaper into a mouthpiece" but that "prompt reaction and loud cries may have scared off a po-

tential censor."

The current publications director also served notice he was considering a slander suit for remarks Alexander had made over a Bowling Green radio station.

In addition to naming faculty editors for the university's twice weekly newspaper and its yearbook, he also proposed changing budgeting procedures and awarding academic credit for working on the publications.

We cannot help but wonder at what point Alexander realized he had reached out and grabbed a tar baby of which he could not let go.

It was probably at about the time he began denying published reports he was considering taking the Virginia job.

The trouble between Alexander and the *Herald* began not long after he arrived on campus in 1985.

The *Herald*, picked a couple of years back as the nation's best college newspaper, apparently wasn't the lap dog Alexander thought it should be.

The staff, which is sought out by papers all across the country as fast as members graduate, had a troublesome knack for reporting and editorializing.

It was at best lukewarm to several of Alexander's pet projects.

Among them were buying and moving the birthplace of nationally noted poet Robert Penn Warren from Guthrie in Todd Coun-

Continued on Page Two

SS Clipping Division  
**Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.**  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

APR 23 1963  
Crittenden Press  
Marion, Ky.  
Circulation: 4,505

# Conflict shows truth of adage

Continued from Page One

ty to the Bowling Green campus. The residents of Guthrie objected to the idea; Warren did, too; and so did the *Herald*.

The student newspaper also objected to Alexander's proposal to waste millions of taxpayers' dollars on another recreational facility at Western at a time academics is crying out for more money.

The *Herald*, impudent beast that it is, also questioned the

wisdom of Alexander's proposal to open a branch campus at Glasgow, which is only 30 miles from Bowling Green.

So, perhaps, it should have come as not much a surprise that he wanted to rid himself of his pesky student newspaper which always wanted to print facts and disagree with him.

But after a couple of weeks of nationwide newscoverage a nice, quiet professorship in Virginia apparently looked awfully good.

*July  
Herald*

## Campus Journalism

# Campus censorship charged

**Students and faculty say university president wants to control publications; he says they have nothing to worry about**

By Allan Wolper

Carrying homemade signs and chanting their support for free speech, a group calling itself Students for a Free Press led more than 200 people through the center of the Western Kentucky University campus in Bowling Green.

Standing nearby, WKU president Kern Alexander waited until the students finished their rally and then told them they had nothing to worry about.

"Censorship is obnoxious to the press, it's obnoxious to me and it's obnoxious to you," he insisted in a March 24 forum with the protestors.

Alexander's speech reportedly won some converts in the emotional gathering, but he is still being criticized for what faculty and students believe was a blatant attempt to grab editorial control of the student newspaper.

- The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, has drafted a report that severely criticizes Alexander for damaging the reputation of the highly rated journalism department.

- Two journalism professors—one retired and the other the current faculty adviser to the paper—say they are consulting with lawyers on whether to sue Alexander for slander.

- Journalism faculty members are worried that their outspoken opposition to Alexander's proposals might provoke some administrative reprisal.

Alexander, speaking from notes, introduced his controversial plan at a

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**Wolper is director of journalism at Rutgers University's Newark, N.J. campus and he writes about college journalism for E&P.**



WKU president Kern Alexander outlines the recommendations for university publications by a faculty committee at the faculty senate meeting.

Photo by Roy Perry

March 15 meeting of a faculty advisory committee to the *College Heights Herald*, the campus paper, and *The Talisman* yearbook.

Alexander said he wanted the two publications to be run by faculty editors, a recommendation that the journalism faculty and student editors felt was an attempt to take over the paper.

The publications now have faculty advisers, but are run by the student editors.

He also said he wanted to give staffers academic credit for their work instead of the \$45 biweekly paychecks the most senior members now receive.

Student journalists felt that getting marks from faculty could hurt the

paper's integrity.

Finally, Alexander proposed expanding a four-member advisory committee of faculty and students that would meet at least once a semester to help select the editor of the paper.

The student members, he advised, should be chosen by the president of the student government, Tim Todd, who had been feuding with the *College Heights Herald*.

The students felt that an intrusive committee could stifle their independence.

Sitting in at the meeting were Tim Roberts, a reporter for the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, Toya Richards, a reporter for the *Herald*, and Carla Harris, the editor of the campus paper.

Harris saw the proposals as a way to quiet the paper that had published a variety of hard-hitting stories that had embarrassed the 25-month-old Alexander administration.

"There's a definite relation between what he did today and what we've written about him in the past," she told the *Courier-Journal*.

*Herald* articles included:

- A story disclosing that school officials failed to meet with members of the Board of Regents before proposing to build a satellite campus at Glasgow and then overstating the number of students who would enroll there.

- A reprinted editorial from the *Courier-Journal* on the Glasgow situation that identified Kern Alexander as Kublai Kern.

- A story that began when a reporter read a memo that was sitting on an administrator's desk, con-

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Campus

(Continued from page 11)

firmed it and produced a story that said the university had lost a state commitment for a special grant.

- An editorial against Alexander's decision to cancel a first-round tournament basketball game against Kentucky Wesleyan, an NCAA small college champion, so WKU would play against Centre, the alma mater of the college president.

- An editorial and cartoon noting that Alexander failed to appear at a special budget meeting between the state's university presidents and Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

- A five-paragraph story last January in the back of the paper that reported on Alexander's divorce. The story was a follow-up of information that appeared in a profile of Alexander in the *Lexington Herald-Leader*.

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**Alexander said he wanted the two publications to be run by faculty editors, a recommendation that the journalism faculty and student editors felt was an attempt to take over the paper.**

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Carla Harris said in an interview that the staff member assigned to the story called Alexander's former wife in Florida to confirm the story and spoke to one of his sons.

After the story ran, King Alexander, Kern Alexander's son, stormed into the Herald newsroom to warn Robert Adams, the faculty adviser, to stop bothering his family.

"Mister A [Adams] didn't know



Courier-Journal reporter Tim Roberts. Photo by Herman Adams

what he was talking about," Harris said. "I assigned the story. But he didn't say anything."

The Western Kentucky University president insists that he was not upset by the way the paper ran the story.

"I thought they might put it on the front page," he said. "They were very fair."

But he is still raging at the first Courier-Journal story that reported on his proposals, claiming that the article fueled the "massive misinformation" in the media.

Tim Roberts reported in the story that Alexander had decided to change the structure of the school publications against "the recommendations of a faculty committee."

Alexander said he did not disagree with the faculty recommendations.

He also claimed that a faculty committee he appointed to analyze the structure of the student publications had indicated the faculty adviser was functioning as an editor.

Jo-Ann Huff Albers, acting chair of

the Journalism Department and a member of that faculty group, said that "every reference in that original report referred to student editors. That's all we talked about. Students."

Albers said, however, that the Courier-Journal overstated the faculty reaction to Alexander. "It wasn't an outright rejection," she said. "His story, however, was a fair representation of what happened."

The Courier-Journal story, picked up by the wire services, launched the controversy.

Joe Iracane, chairman of the Board of Regents, accused the journalism department of creating the impression that Alexander wanted to censor the school paper.

"When they tipped off the Courier-Journal, that implied that censorship was an issue," Iracane charged in a telephone interview.

"I think that they [the journalism faculty] were concerned about selfish motives," he said. "Do you think that the Courier-Journal would have covered that meeting if we were going to delete 15 courses from the curriculum?"

Iracane conceded that he went a bit overboard when he told reporters that it was a "little unethical" for the



Herald adviser and interim public relations director Bob Adams. Photo by Herman Adams

paper to sit in on the meeting.

David W. Hawpe, editor of the Courier-Journal, told the *Daily News* in Bowling Green that Iracane's complaint about the paper's ethics was "one of the most extraordinary comments I've ever heard. The story didn't mislead anybody, unless those quoted were using words they didn't understand."

Hawpe and Alexander spoke the day after the article appeared, but the university president did not complain about the coverage.

"It's not like we were lurking in the shadows," said Roberts, the Courier-Journal reporter. "I sat directly across the table from him. He knows me. He greeted me when I came in. I was invited by the group."

Alexander believes that his problems with Roberts are simply an extension of a long-running dispute that he traces back to his attempts to create the campus at Glasgow.

"It's that Kublai Kern thing," he asserted.

Roberts said the problem Alexander is having with the paper is like the Glasgow controversy.

"He just keeps redefining what he says," Roberts commented.

The WKU president said he was not prepared for the media attention he received.

"It's really very hard to communicate through the press when you are talking about a press issue," *Herald-Leader* reporter Bill Estep said Alexander told him. "He said that virtually everything in the press was misrepresented."

The campus became a media center as reporters from Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Illinois and Indiana moved in to get a piece of the story, and the editorial writers went after



Alexander.

"You have to admire the gall of Kern Alexander," wrote Karl Harrison, executive editor of the *Paducah* (Ky.) *Sun*. "He has set out to give the school's political science department an on-campus case study in how to conduct business like a Chicago alderman: Don't debate the enemy, destroy him.

"... if Alexander emasculates the Herald, newspaper editors will start looking somewhere else for good, young journalists, whose clippings and campus news experience can be trusted."

"The saddest and most infuriating aspect of the WKU saga is that Mr. Alexander is not only a public official, he is also an educator," said the *Nashville Tennessean*. "As such, he should have more value on the pursuit of the truth and valid educational opportunity than on his personal considerations."

The *Courier-Journal* said Alexander's proposals appeared to be based on an "inadequate understanding of student newspapers... We believe president Alexander is a wiser academic leader than that.

"We hope that he'll quickly rethink his plan, or restate it in words that make clear his commitment to a free and vigorous press — and to an outstanding journalism program that has earned full support."

The Herald stated, "The mission of publications is to cover thoroughly Western's campus. Coverage of some of Alexander's actions have brought controversy and embarrassment to the university and may have displeased him. But the solution is to stop the confusion — not the presses."

The shouting seemed to be dying down the day the students had their march against censorship.

That also was the day, however, that Alexander was interviewed by Tim England on public radio station WKYU-FM. In that interview, Alexander said his main concern with the student publication was what he called fiscal accountability.

"Those professors who do not want to submit a budget or a financial plan have created this disturbance," Alexander said in the radio interview. "We have to have policies written down. They objected to that. They objected to having a financial plan.

"Those professors remonstrated and called their friends across the nation and created a freedom of press issue," he insisted.

Robert Adams, the paper's adviser since 1972 and the interim director of student publications, said he was flabbergasted by Alexander's statement.



Bob Bruck, Herald photo editor, and Carla Harris, Herald editor, look over the budget for the March 22 Herald.

Photo by Roger Vibbert

"I told a reporter that it was the most incredible thing that had been said during the most incredible week," he recalled.

"University publications have budgets just like every other unit of the university," Adams said. "What he said was ridiculous. No one has ever asked for a budget for the paper at the beginning of the year.

with Jon Fleischaker, libel lawyer for the *Courier-Journal*.

"He has put me under a false light," the former *Courier-Journal* copy editor said. "He says that I ran that department from the seat of my pants. That's not true. He said that I never wrote anything down. I wrote a 28-page guideline for all the students.

"He said that budgets weren't sub-

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**Meanwhile, Alexander said he is going to let a special five-member committee he selected after his plan was attacked suggest ways to reorganize the student publications.**

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"One of the implications of what he said is that we never had any budgetary controls," he continued. "By saying that we need some kind of fiscal responsibility is an implication that you are having fiscal irresponsibility now.

"I think it raises serious doubts. I think what he has said is defamatory, and it may demand some kind of legal response. What he said has been widely distributed.

"I had no problem submitting a budget. I even think it's a good idea," he added. "Nothing like this has ever happened here before. We take press freedoms for granted. Students have decided the content of this paper for years. It was a freedom I took for granted."

David B. Whittaker, who retired last June 30 as director of student publications, said he plans to meet

mitted for the publications. That's not true. I submitted a budget for publications every year. No one ever asked for a budget for the paper.

"And there was a reason. We never could predict how much we'd bring in, because the bids went out for printing every year and it always changed, and none of the Western presidents would ever let us sue the deadheads who didn't pay," he charged.

Whittaker said he believes that Adams appears to be the target of Alexander's attempt to control the paper.

"He was the paper's adviser during a lot of those stories and Alexander thinks he had something to do with it," he continued. "Well, Alexander should know that Robert Adams was once picked as the distinguished

(Continued on page 52)

## Campus

(Continued from page 13)

newspaper adviser in the country."

The former publications chief also said that Alexander had 14 months to come up with a plan to reorganize the paper.

Joe Iracane said that none of the budgetary controls Alexander wanted to put into effect reflected on the honesty of the two men. "Their integrity is not being challenged," he stated.

Iracane left open the possibility, however, that the dispute might result in some repercussions for the faculty. Asked whether faculty members who had spoken out against Alexander might be in some jeopardy, he said he "can't answer that at this point."

Alexander said he had no intention of retaliating against those who disagreed with him.

"I was a professor," he said. "If a faculty member had done something that suggests reprisals, I wouldn't know what they were."

Patsy Judd, a member of the Board of Regents and a former partner with Adams in four area papers, said that Adams had nothing to worry about.

"He has tenure," she said. "I don't anticipate anything. As far as retaliation is concerned, that just won't happen."

Paul McMasters, deputy editorial director of *USA Today* and national Freedom of Information chairman for the Society of Professional Journal-

ists, said that a three-person investigating unit had decided that "the basic problems and the resultant uproar can be laid to president Alexander's feet."

"We think that the censorship issue is dead," he said. "At least we hope that. We will continue to monitor the situation. We believe that the issue of financial and budgetary reporting is a red herring."

"We looked extensively into the budget and finance reporting of the publications and we find that it complies with all the university policies and goes even further," he said.

"We think that severe damage has been done in the short term to the reputation of the journalism school," he added.

The three-member SPJ, SDX investigating unit was headed by Robert Thorpe, a retired copy editor for the *Louisville Times* and a former journalism professor at the University of Kentucky. Other members were: James Tidwell, associate professor of journalism at Eastern Illinois University at Charleston; and Laura Hill, a consultant journalist for the Vanderbilt University publications.

Meanwhile, Alexander said he is going to let a special five-member committee he selected after his plan was attacked suggest ways to reorganize the student publications.

Albers, chair of the journalism department and head of the committee, said she didn't believe the committee's report would differ greatly from the one produced by a previous

faculty committee.

That group said the current structure worked very well and suggested that the umbrella group of the two student publications could be fixed with a name change — University Publications to Student Publications — to reflect what the organization was all about.

But Howard Bailey, dean of student life and a member of the Albers committee, complained that the student publications had been too independent of the university structure.

"I believe that we need a larger committee to reflect the university at large," he said. "I believe there should be an advisory committee to the paper that would give it a broader perspective."

"The committee could give the paper ideas on stories," Bailey continued.

The dean contended that the journalism faculty had given him the impression that campuswide committees were an anathema to newspapers.

"Well, I did a survey and found out that the whole thing was a smoke-screen," he charged.

The Board of Regents, meanwhile, held a special meeting last weekend to give its unanimous support to the committee and said it did not believe that Alexander wanted to censor the school publications.

In the midst of all this, the *Herald* won 18 separate journalism awards in the Society of Professional Journalists' regional competition.

## Ad data

(Continued from page 50)

	1988		1987	
	FULL RUN	PART RUN	FULL RUN	PART RUN
<b>WEST PLAINS, MO.</b>				
Quill-e				
ROP Local	10,956		11,759	
ROP National	406		516	
Classified	2,648		2,611	
GRAND TOTAL	14,010		14,886	
YEAR TO DATE	24,848		28,197	
<b>WILMINGTON, DEL.</b>				
News-Journal-me				
ROP Local	49,114		52,071	
Preprint Local	46,540		37,882	
ROP National	3,458		3,724	
Preprint National	520		92	
Classified	76,995		70,065	
Total	176,627		163,834	
News-Journal-S				
ROP Local	24,646		24,958	
Preprint Local	62,660		81,214	
ROP National	1,200		1,197	
Preprint National	15,080		9,513	
Classified	24,693		21,202	
Total	128,279		138,084	
GRAND TOTAL	304,906		301,918	
YEAR TO DATE	87,770		532,461	

### WINDSOR, ONT.

Star-e*		
ROP Local	664,517	651,175
Preprint Local	594,694	587,601
ROP National	192,940	188,082
Preprint National	53,559	42,499
Classified	344,201	321,261
GRAND TOTAL	1,849,911	1,790,638
YEAR TO DATE	3,601,632	3,527,376

Note: Figures are given in modular ogate lines

### WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

Journal-m				
ROP Local	47,598	11,113	42,474	10,505
Preprint Local	1,184	23,312	1,970	21,409
ROP National	2,768		3,122	
Preprint National	568		352	
Classified	41,808		42,234	
Total	93,926	34,425	90,152	31,914
Journal-S				
ROP Local	17,971		18,049	
Preprint Local	2,562	9,447	3,543	13,213
ROP National	1,220		1,125	
Preprint National	9,747		6,686	
Classified	16,134		14,062	
Total	47,634	9,447	43,465	13,213
GRAND TOTAL	141,560	43,872	133,617	45,127
YEAR TO DATE	286,501	233,567	454,668	80,708

\*Indicates newspapers reporting figures in lines.

## Arrested

(Continued from page 16)

side of the story was being told, its soldiers should not harass the press and routinely refuse interviews.

Officials in Noriega's regime have frequently accused the press of misinforming and conspiring with the Reagan administration and Panamanian opposition to bring Noriega down.

Camargo agreed and said he would do something about it. He then told us we were not under arrest and that we would not be expelled from the country.

He said he would read the newspapers to see if we told the truth about the incident.

Camargo then apologized for not having a taxi to take us back to the hotel and asked if we would mind riding in a police van.

We agreed quickly and, by 9 p.m., three hours after I was arrested, the eight of us were dropped off in front of the hotel.

# Glasgow Daily Times

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CENTS

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## WKU regents endorse Alexander plan

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents voted Saturday to support President Kern Alexander in his efforts to establish written policies for two student publications.

The board unanimously endorsed a resolution that said there is "an obvious need for documentation of policies, procedures and fiscal accountability for the College Heights Herald (newspaper) and the Talisman (yearbook)..." and backed efforts to establish such policies.

The proposals, being studied by a subcommittee of a committee

appointed last year to look at the operation of the Herald and the Talisman, have been criticized since being released March 16.

Opponents say the changes would allow Alexander to censor the sometimes controversial Herald.

But Board Chairman Joe Iracane said that is not the intent.

"Let me say that any form of administrative control for the written content of the College Heights Herald is not and has never been the desire of the board or of this administration," Iracane said in a statement released after

the two-hour special session.

Alexander said the changes are designed to place a buffer between the student publications and the president's office, which now is responsible for its faculty appointments.

"It protects the student press to have procedures written... (we've) gone completely from a discussion of policy to a discussion of censorship," Alexander said. "It took quite a leap to get there."

Robert Adams, adviser to the Herald, said he was pleased the board chose to continue with the subcommittee review.

"I'm pleased that the president didn't get some sort of direction from the board to scrap the plan," Adams said. "I feel perfectly comfortable with what the committee will do."

Alexander said he would allow a panel of professional journalists to review the committee's report and make recommendations if there was any concern over administrative interference into the student publications.

The committee is expected to report its findings to the president by May 1.



# WKU regents back Alexander

By DAVID C.L. BAUER  
Daily News Staff Writer

The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents voted Saturday to support President Kern Alexander in his efforts to establish written policies for two student publications.

The board unanimously approved a resolution endorsing a study of proposed changes to Western's student publications — the College Heights Herald newspaper and the Talisman yearbook.

The resolution said there is "an obvious need for documentation of policies, procedures and fiscal accountability for the College Heights Herald and the Talisman ..." and backed efforts to establish such policies.

The proposals, being studied by a subcommittee of a committee ap-

pointed last year to look at the operation of the Herald and the Talisman, have been criticized since being released March 16.

Opponents say the changes would allow Alexander to censor the sometimes controversial Herald.

But Board Chairman Joe Iracane said that is not the intent.

"Let me say that any form of administrative control for the written content of the College Heights Herald is not and has never been the desire of the board or of this administration," Iracane said in a statement released after the two-hour special session.

The changes are designed to place a buffer between the student publications and the president's office, which now is responsible for its faculty appointments, Alexander said.

"It protects the student press to have procedures written... (we've) gone completely from a discussion of policy to a discussion of censorship," Alexander said. "It took quite a leap to get there."

Iracane said he called the special meeting of the regents to "set the record straight."

An ad hoc committee that studied the publications recommended the expansion of a committee to oversee selection of faculty editors and key student positions on the publication staffs.

Use of the term "faculty editors" caused an outcry among critics, who said it implied faculty members would have control over the editorial content of the publications.

Alexander said he erred when using the terms faculty editor and

faculty adviser, which both publications now have, interchangeably. There would never be approval for a faculty or administration member to red-pencil editorial content before publication, he said.

Iracane stressed the need for written policies for all phases of the university.

"As individuals responsible for the operation of a state supported institution of higher education, this board must insist on written guidelines which clearly demonstrate a plan and an organization for all units associated with the university and receiving state funds," Iracane said. "This documentation is necessary not only to fulfill our responsibility to the

Continued Back Page  
Column 3, This Section

## WKU

state and to its citizens, but to protect the integrity of the programs which we operate."

Iracane also praised Alexander's patience in dealing with the criticism the proposals have generated.

"You deserve better than what you have received this past week," Iracane told Alexander. "It is unfortunate that your time and efforts, particularly during a period of such critical activity at the state level, have been consumed by issues which in reality are non-issues."

Robert Adams, adviser to the Herald, said he was pleased the board chose to continue with the subcommittee review.

"I'm pleased that the president didn't get some sort of direction from the board to scrap the plan,"

Adams said. "I feel perfectly comfortable with what the committee will do."

Alexander said he would allow a panel of professional journalists to review the committee's report and make recommendations if there was any concern over administrative interference into the student publications.

The committee is expected to report its findings to the president by May 1.

Following Alexander's discussion of the ad hoc committee's recommendations, and proposals he said he asked the subcommittee to address, the board went into a one-hour closed session to discuss personnel matters.

No action was taken in the closed session.

## Herald wins 18 awards

Western Kentucky University's student newspaper, the College Heights Herald, won 18 awards during the regional competition of The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

The newspaper won the competition's sweepstakes award, which is given based on total overall points received, and claimed six first place awards. The Herald also took first place for its student magazine in the non-daily publication category.

Individual first place winners were Eric Woehler for non-fiction magazine story, Dorren Klausnitzer for in-depth reporting, Royce Vibbert for sports and feature photography, and Tom Broekma for spot news photography.

Seven Herald staff members received individual second place awards and four received individual third place awards.

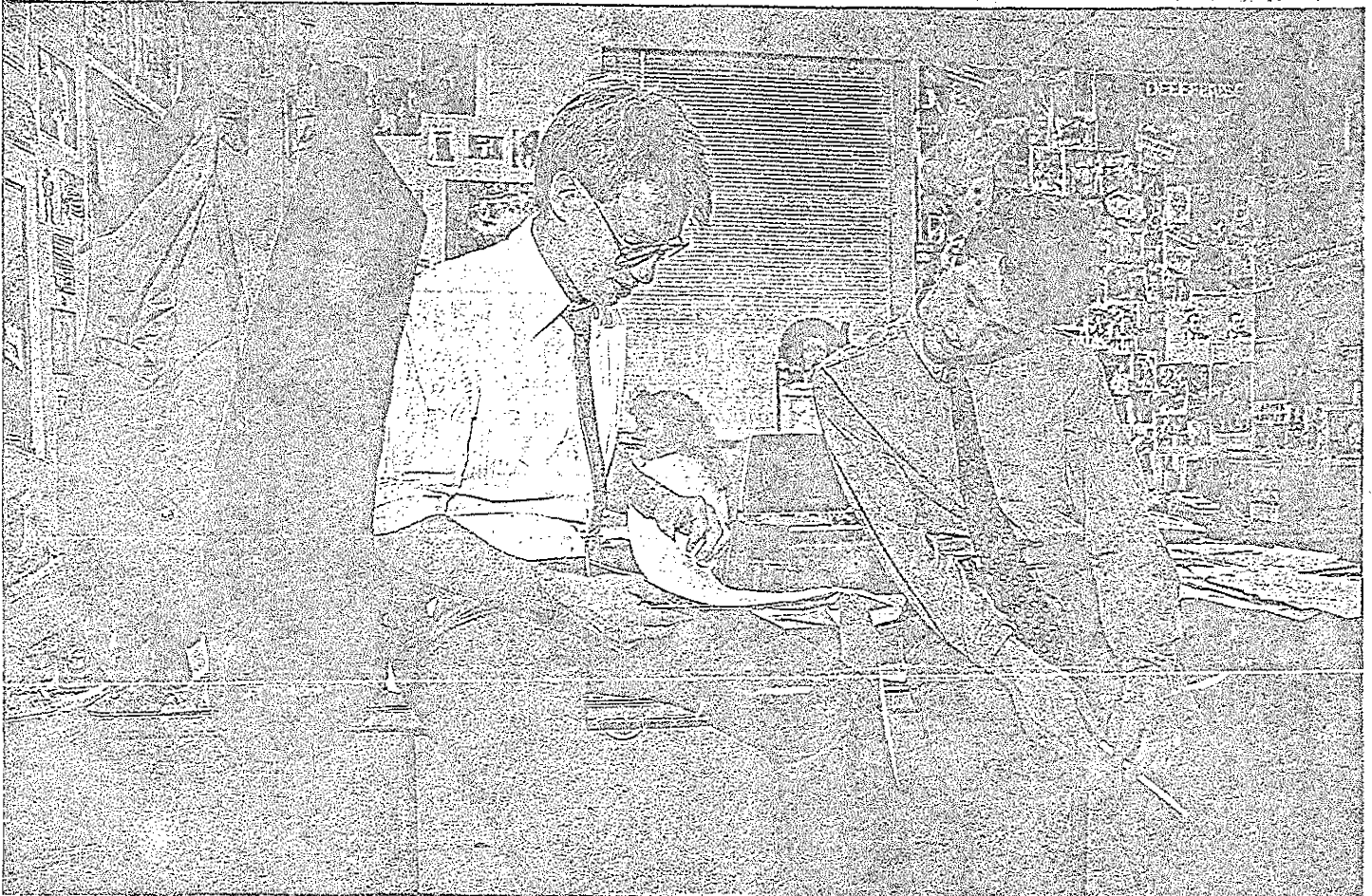
The competition included universities from Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois.

# CITY/STATE

Section C

Friday, March 25, 1988

## Counting their blessings



Herald-Leader/David Perry

Dan Hassert, left, editor-in-chief of the Kentucky Kernel with executive editor Jay Blanton in newspaper office

# UK paper doesn't fear censorship

By Virginia Anderson  
Herald-Leader staff writer

Student editors at the Kentucky Kernel yesterday counted articles for today's edition of the daily campus newspaper.

There was the UK basketball game last night, a lecture by noted English professor Guy Davenport and a scheduled student government debate that was later canceled.

But while the editors counted articles, they also counted their blessings. The Kernel, which publishes 17,000 copies Monday through Friday, seldom is hassled by UK administrators and faculty members, editors said. That is in marked contrast to the situation at Western Kentucky University, where President Kern Alexander last week suggested appointing a

'We catch more flak from students than we do administrators.'

— Dan Hassert, Kernel editor-in-chief

faculty editor to the College Heights Herald, Western's award-winning student newspaper.

Kernel editors and staffers said yesterday they were worried about Alexander's suggestion, but said they did not think UK's administration would follow suit.

"It's obviously a slap in the face for the First Amendment," executive editor Jay Blanton said. "It shows his definite disregard for college newspapers. I don't think he really understands what college newspapers are all

about."

The flap at Western began when Alexander suggested the faculty editor. Cries of censorship and prior restraint immediately rang out from news organizations across the state.

Editorials said Alexander was trying to punish the paper for covering his administration too aggressively.

The Kernel was quick to come to the defense of its counterpart at Western, running an editorial and a cartoon in Wednesday's edition criticizing Alexander's proposal.

In some cases, college administrations have some control over what goes into the student newspapers because the papers are financially dependent on the university.

(Turn to UK, C2)

# UK newspaper doesn't fear censorship



Kernel Editor Dan Hassert said he knew that many UK administrators disapproved of articles about condoms published last fall, but that no one tried to get him to stop running them.

## From Page C1

That is not the case at UK, where the Kernel's advertising revenue accounts for almost all of its \$500,000 annual operating budget.

The College Heights Herald, a twice-weekly newspaper with a circulation of 10,000, gets most of its income from advertising. It is accountable, however, to the university for how it spends the money. News and editorial decisions are made by students who sometimes consult with faculty advisers.

The Kernel has been independent since 1971 and is run by students.

Still, it occupies several offices in the basement of the Grehan Building on campus and has an adviser and business manager whose salaries are paid at least in part by UK.

Patsy Martin, the business manager, said the UK administration had not interfered with the Kernel during the eight years she had worked there.

"We have a very good relationship with these folks," she said. "They feel our reporting is fair and accurate. We do get calls, of course,

but we have not experienced any attempt at censorship."

Dan Hassert, the Kernel's editor-in-chief since fall semester, said no one in UK's administration had ever pressured him to change an article.

"I'm really surprised," Hassert said yesterday. "We catch more flak from students than we do administrators."

Nonetheless, Hassert said he knew there were times when UK did not approve of Kernel articles or editorials. The Kernel has criticized UK for not allowing students over 21 to drink alcohol in dormitories. Last fall, in an effort to help stop the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, it wrote several stories about the availability of condoms on the UK campus.

Hassert said no one tried to get him to stop running articles about the condoms, but he knew the administration did not like them.

Those stories led to an editorial cartoon criticizing the new vice chancellor for student affairs, James Kuder, who at the time did not come to the phone to answer a reporter's questions, Hassert said. The cartoon depicted Kuder inside a condom.

Kuder yesterday said he supported the Kernel, even after the condom cartoon.

"I wasn't excited about being put inside a condom, but frankly, I found it to be amusing," he said. "There's such a thing as freedom of the press, and the university is committed to the free exchange of ideas. How can you have a free exchange of ideas if you don't have freedom of the press? You might as well shut down shop if you don't have that."

Although Kernel staffers said they were not worried that Alexander's proposals would affect them, editors of the Eastern Progress at Eastern Kentucky University said they would be worried if Alexander got his way. The Eastern Progress, like the College Heights Herald, is not totally independent. Alexander's proposal could start a trend, they said, that could hamper their ability to cover campus news.

"It scared me when I first saw it," said Mike Marsee, editor of the Eastern Progress. "But I believe Western is getting a good deal of support, and I'm not real sure he'll be successful."

# Regents to discuss publications

By DAVID C.L. BAUER  
Daily News Staff Writer

The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents will meet in special session Saturday to discuss proposed changes in student publications — changes opposed Thursday by a state press association.

The board will meet at 11 a.m. in the Regents Conference Room of the Wetherby Administration Building. Joe Iracane, chairman of the board, said the meeting is "to set the record straight" about proposed changes in the College Heights Herald newspaper and the Talisman yearbook.

The proposals have drawn sharp criticism from campus and national

organizations, including the executive board of the Kentucky Press Association's executive board.

The 23-member KPA board unanimously passed a resolution Thursday that said President Kern Alexander's original proposals were detrimental to the integrity of the journalism program at Western. The press association said the proposals also would damage the employability of Western journalism graduates.

Other organizations have labeled the proposed changes as an attempt at censoring the sometimes controversial student publications. Alexander has strongly denied the charges and defended his proposals as a way of making good student

publications even better.

The national chapter of The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, earlier this week sent a fact-finding committee to Western to examine the proposals and see if the intent is to stifle the student media. The group is expected to complete its investigation today and release a report of its findings early next week.

Larry Craig, editor and publisher of the Green River Republication newspaper and president-elect of the KPA, said the committee did not wait for the committee's report because "what they do or don't find has nothing to do with the fact we have very real concerns."

Craig, who proposed the KPA

resolution, said he spoke to members of an ad hoc committee appointed by Alexander to study the operation of student publications and spoke to journalism faculty and students.

"We just feel the changes in the College Heights Herald and the Talisman that (Alexander) has proposed are detrimental to the journalism program at Western," said David Thompson, executive director of KPA.

Alexander had asked to speak to members of the executive board, but was not able to attend the scheduled meeting. He was not con-

Continued Back Page  
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PCDN 3-25-88

## Regents

From  
Page 1

tacted before the resolution was passed, Craig said.

Executive board members do plan to meet with Alexander next week to address their concerns and views.

"I think the board members have a tremendous respect for his intellect and for his stature in the education community. He does, however, have a very serious problem being unable or unwilling to communicate with any degree of clarity what it is he wants," said Craig.

"If Dr. Alexander knows what he wants, he's the only one," Craig said.

Alexander has said the recommendations he made, designed to place more financial and departmental accountability within the publications operation, entirely parallel recommendations made by the ad hoc committee.

Meeting with Faculty Senate members Tuesday, Alexander said he would agree to have committee recommendations on the implementation of the proposed changes — which include expansion of an oversight committee — reviewed by a committee of professional journalists to ensure the proposals do not raise a question of censorship.

*Daily News*  
*3/25/88*

## Control of Herald means censorship

Editor, Daily News:

The move to place administrative control over the College Heights Herald is nothing more than censorship. The Herald has been a top-rated paper among the Associated Collegiate Press across the United States for the past 10 years. WITHOUT FACULTY SUPERVISION.

The main reason for the success of the Herald's acclaimed journalism is that the paper is not afraid to go the extra step to be a bit con-

troversial or argumentative.

If faculty members take over in the editing process the result would be crippling to the Herald's accreditation. They would take the heart out of the paper ... and cause a lack of an incentive to achieve recognition. This proposal would be a grave error not only in academics, but in enrollment. Western's journalism department is known for its input to the media. Out-of-state enrollment to the journalism department shows this to be true.

If this decision totally rests on President Alexander's shoulders, is he qualified ... enough to make such a critical decision for the Herald and the future of Western's journalism department?

Todd Horton  
162 Van Meter  
Rockfield 42274

## Alexander's plan attacks tradition

Editor, Daily News:

President Kern Alexander's current march to seize control of Western Kentucky University's nationally honored publications, The College Heights Herald newspaper and The Talisman yearbook, is an outrage and should be an affront to Western alumni who treasure the heritage and tradition of "the Hill."

After a faculty committee review of the university publications — ordered by Alexander — failed to give Western's president his desired mandate to alter operations, Alexander seems to be saying, "OK, you had your chance to do things my way on your own. Now I'm ordering you to do it my way."

I am a Western alumnus who did not have the privilege of working on either publication. However, 15 years as a journalist and now a state official have taught me one very important lesson: Disputes between the news media and public servants must not result in personal vendettas on either side.

Negative editorials and stories by news media, including the Col-

lege Heights Herald, ... are hardly sound reason to strike out like the dictator of some third-world country unhappy with the local press.

There is no apparent educational basis for Alexander's directive. No doubt (all) Western presidents ... have had their run-ins with these publications, but have failed to find it necessary to declare them detrimental to the president's grand plan for "the organizational structure of the university."

It makes one wonder if the editorialist who coined the nickname "Kublai Kern" was being unfair or simply prophetic.

Alexander campaigned to become Western's president. Not once, but twice. I strongly suggest that, should he now find the self-generated heat that accompanies the job to be too-hot, he may wish to return to Florida and allow someone else to take Western into the 21st Century — someone who can lead Western forward without ripping out the roots (its) past.

Brad Hughes  
1821 Yale Drive  
Louisville 40205

*Daily News*  
*3/20/88*

PCDN 3-20-88

## LEADER

48 pages 35 cents

### WKU students say no to 'censorship'



Kern Alexander sat at university center before student march began.

### WKU students demonstrate for yearbook, newspaper

By Bill Estep  
South-central Kentucky bureau

BOWLING GREEN — Hundreds of students marched on the university administration building, carrying signs and chanting slogans as they demonstrated in the bright sunshine.

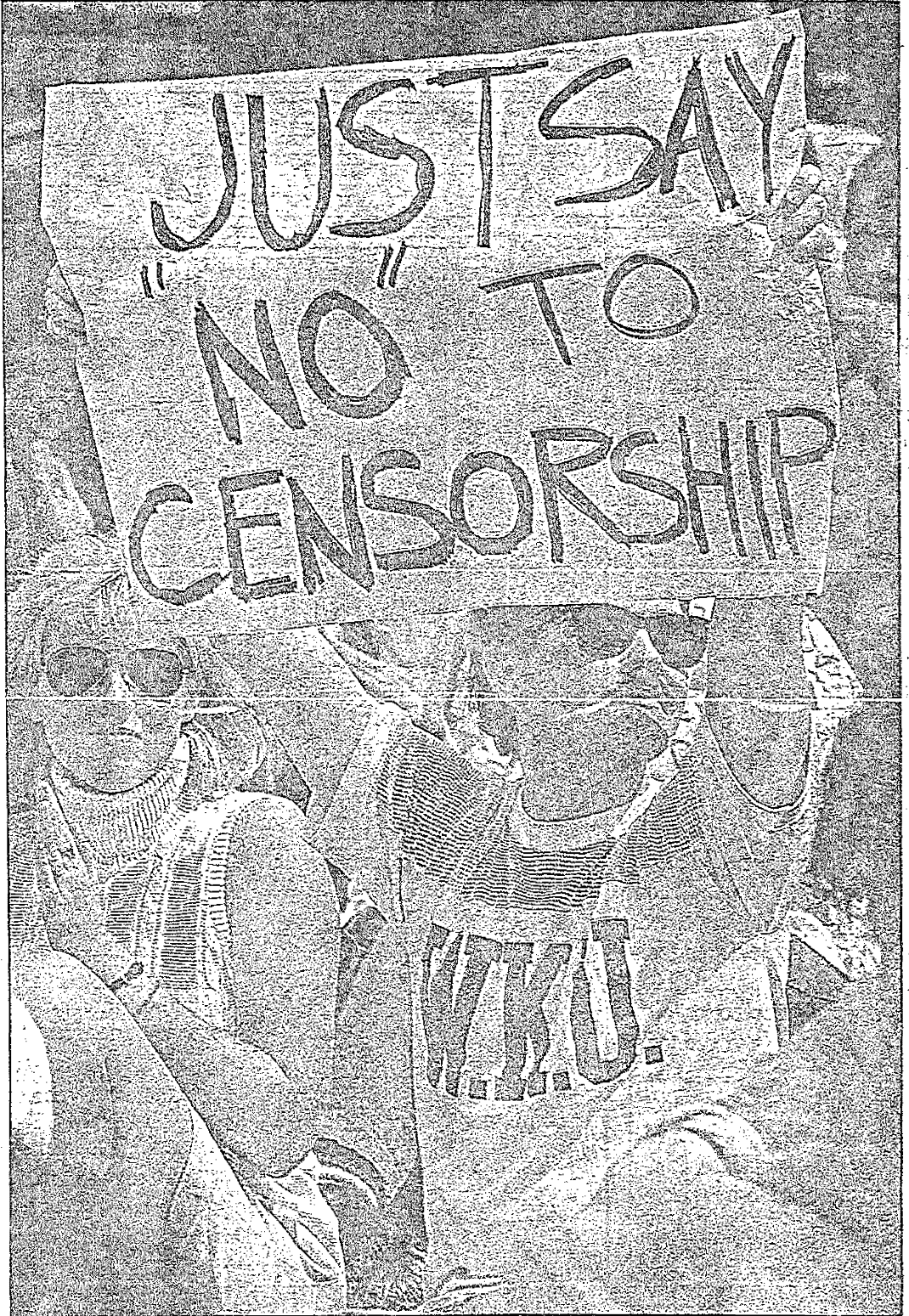
1968? No.

The march and rally were yesterday at Western Kentucky University by students demonstrating support for the award-winning campus newspaper and yearbook.

Western President Kern Alexander sparked a fierce controversy a week ago when he asked a committee to provide guidelines for changes at the publications. He asked for faculty editors and a faculty and student committee to oversee budgets and help choose faculty and student editors.

Many students, faculty members and professional journalists thought the changes would result in administration control over the College Heights Herald newspaper and Talisman yearbook.

(Turn to STUDENTS, A12)



Herald-Leader/Steve Castleberry

David Berger, a photojournalism student from Fort Thomas, holds protest sign.



# Students at WKU rally to support their publications

## From Page One

The publications now have faculty advisers, but students control the content.

A group called Students for a Free Press organized yesterday's march from the university center to the administration building atop the hill on Western's campus.

The purpose of the march changed before it started.

Alexander "redefined" his stand on Tuesday and made it clear he did not want to censor or control the newspaper or yearbook, said the three organizers of the march.

"We see it more as a victory march," said Christian Ely, 20, a theater major from Brentwood, Tenn., and one of the organizers.

The students went ahead with the march to show that students at Western are not apathetic and to call for better communication between the administration and faculty and students. The march had some elements of '60s demonstrations, but not the defiance.

Organizer Bruce Cambron, 21, a history and government major from Louisville, used a bullhorn to warn students not to block sidewalks.

"We're going to follow all the administration's rules. We don't want to be rebellious" because that would defeat the purpose of the march, Cambron said.

As the students — 150 to 200 strong — marched up the hill, they chanted "free press." Many carried signs, among them, "Just say no to censorship."

The crowd swelled to between 400 and 500 as students settled in on the lawn of the administration building to cheer short speeches by the three organizers.

Cambron pointed out that the newspaper and yearbook and the

journalism department are recognized nationally for excellence.

"My message is, 'If it isn't broken, don't fix it,'" he said.

Drew Jurek, 19, a business major from Cleveland, said he participated in the march because the Herald is the voice of the students and must be independent.

"We should be able to write our own newspaper," he said.

Tonia Gooch, 19, said she and another student came from Morehead State University to support Western's newspaper.

Trace Kirkwood, 21, a Louisville history and government major who helped organize the march, said he thought most Western students opposed administration control over the newspaper.

The Faculty Senate discussed a resolution supporting student control, but with more financial accountability, said its president, history professor Fred Murphy.

He said there was some uneasiness among faculty members that Alexander's plan would bring administration control.

Much of that concern dissipated Tuesday after Alexander addressed a special session of the senate, he said.

Alexander walked down the hill to the student center about 25 minutes before the march. Students asked him to join in.

He instead asked them to come inside the student center for a public forum to let him explain.

Some students thought he was trying to take attention from the march, which drew coverage from more than a dozen news organizations.

The controversy has drawn nationwide attention because it seemed to pit a university president against a newspaper that has criticized him and covered the universi-



Associated Press

Students for a Free Press, a WKU group, marched in Bowling Green rally yesterday.

ty aggressively.

Staffers at the paper suggested Alexander was seeking retribution, although he scoffed at that.

Alexander held his public forum after the march to explain his position.

He strongly criticized the news media for suggesting he wanted to censor the paper and yearbook.

"Censorship is obnoxious to the press, it's obnoxious to me and it's obnoxious to you," he said.

Alexander said his goal was to achieve better fiscal accountability for the publications, define in writing the role of the publications committee and advisers and better attach the publications to the university.

A committee he appointed is to report its recommendations next week.

Alexander attributed the uproar to a "massive misinterpretation" of his goals by a sensitive press.

He said some of the misinterpre-

tation might have been intentional, so that the changes would be seen as a free-press issue when in fact they were not.

Even Alexander supporters said he caused some misunderstanding by using the term "faculty editor" when talking about the faculty person he wanted to work with the newspaper.

Alexander said the term was the same as faculty adviser.

Even as the situation seemed to be improving yesterday, Alexander said things that angered journalism students and faculty.

He said some professors fanned the flames of the controversy by calling associates and alumni across the nation. He said those professors did not want to submit to budgetary control.

"It's the most incredible thing that's been said in a most incredible week," said Bob Adams, interim publications director and faculty adviser for the newspaper.

# Censorship

## Western's president wants to control school paper's content

Who does Kern Alexander think he's fooling?

As president of Western Kentucky University, Alexander has proposed that the college newspaper and yearbook be more closely controlled by faculty and the administration.

After the school's own publications committee reviewed *The Talisman* and *College Heights Herald* last year, they recommended no major changes in the operations of the yearbook and newspaper. Alexander decided to force the committee back into session to come up with his own suggestions.

Those include the appointment of faculty editors to the now student-operated publications. Those editors would, in turn, appoint the student staff.

Academic credit would be



given for working in the newsroom, rather than the work-study paychecks most of the staff now receives. Alexander referred to the organizations as "laboratories" of the journalism department.

I don't know many chemistry students who have to sell ads to get new laboratory equipment.

You see, that's how it works

at WKU, as well as many college newspapers, including Murray State's where I experienced newspaperwork for the first time. Just like in the "real world", the papers' survival depends on how well the staff writes, photographs, sells and designs.

There is a certain amount of autonomy in college publications. Most of the time they progress because of hard work and good ideas, not because the university decides to give them more money.

As an example, the last year I was working at *The Murray State News*, the staff was able to purchase new typesetting equipment from additional ad revenue. The university's initial "investment" in the paper hadn't changed.

Alexander also wants to limit the number of people who can be on the college staffs. Only those who will receive academic credit for working can be a part of his "laboratory" experience.

College newspapers survive on people willing to work for experience. Because of the nature of the business, people from departments outside journalism or advertising benefit from the job. Any academic credit they would receive would probably be considered an elective and virtually useless toward getting credits in their major for their degree.

Most of the student journalists spend more time at the paper

Please see CENSORSHIP Page A5, column 1

Clipping Division  
**Kentucky Press Service, Inc.**  
 332 Capitol Avenue  
 Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
 MAY 21 1973  
 Central Ky. News-Journal  
 Campbellsville, Ky.  
 Circulation: 7,310

# Censorship

Continued from page A4

than in class and to receive one or three hours credit a semester for anywhere from six to 60 hours work is absurdly lopsided. "Bribing" the students with a puny academic credit won't make them any more receptive to the will of the administration. A work-study paycheck, however meager, gives students a taste of the incentive

most will drive for the rest of their lives.

But the most reprehensible thing about Alexander's proposal is his effort to control the content and nature of the publications. *College Heights Herald* is no public relations tool for the university. Although Western's positives are shown as readily as the negatives, like any good newspaper, it analyzes what is going on around campus and the issues important to

students and higher education as a whole.

All that includes criticizing Alexander and his administration when the student editors see something they don't agree with. In fact some of the staff believe it is this criticism that sparked Alexander's plan in the first place.

By appointing faculty, who may have no newspaper experience at all, to "clear" what

is being reported on and said in these student publications, they will cease to be student-oriented.

Because of college newspapers, students receive practical experience and first-hand knowledge in the field of journalism before they graduate. Staffs do need guidance and advice, they don't need their hands held by people only interested in telling half of the story.

5 Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
Service, Inc.  
332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

Messenger Inquirer  
Owensboro, Ky.  
Circulation: 33,530  
33,895 (Sunday)

# Note to Alexander: If it isn't broken, don't try fixing it

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander seems to want more control over the campus newspaper, the College Heights Herald.

Of course, he says this has nothing to do with the fact that the Herald (along with many papers in the state) has aggressively reported some of the more controversial actions of his administration.

Of course not.

It is merely an effort to better fit the newspaper into the organizational structure of the university, according to Alexander. If his plan is adopted, this would mean:

■ A faculty editor would take the place of the present student editor in directing the overall news operation.

■ The faculty editor would be appointed by a new publications committee. The majority of the publications committee would be appointed by Alexander.

■ Student participation, even at the staff level, would be curtailed so that no single student could work more than two or three semesters on the paper.

Alexander wants all this to happen by the fall semester.

Even in a vacuum these would be bad ideas, worth discarding because of the implications they have for press free-

## EDITORIAL

dom and academic freedom at WKU.

In context, they are even worse. The College Heights Herald and the Western Kentucky University journalism programs have national reputations for excellence. The Herald not only provides invaluable training to student journalists, but it also serves its 10,000 campus readers very well. In addition, many newspaper readers in Kentucky (including those of the Messenger-Inquirer) have benefitted from work done by well-trained graduates of the College Heights Herald.

These advantages would be greatly diminished if the paper is reduced to the equivalent of a "chemistry lab," which is the analogy Alexander uses when discussing the changes.

Late last year, a faculty committee studied the university's student publications and recommended no substantial changes in their organization. Plainly, the committee recognized there was no need to fix something that wasn't broken in the first place.

That is a wise strategy. We hope Alexander will reconsider and adopt it as his own.

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Service, Inc.

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MAR 13 1983

Messenger Inquirer  
Owensboro, Ky.  
Circulation: 33,530  
33,895 (Sunday)

## Leave WKU paper alone

Editor:

As a graduate of Western Kentucky University's photojournalism program and former staff member of the Herald and Talisman, I am appalled at Dr. Alexander's proposal to appoint faculty members to editorial positions on the publications.

Why does Alexander insist on this? Does he not trust the advice of the faculty committee which told him that no changes were needed?

So far the Herald and Talisman have done very well without faculty editors. This proposal, if passed, will do nothing but harm Western's nationally recognized program.

What would happen if President Reagan appointed government officials to editorial positions on national papers?

My advice to Alexander is this: If it isn't broken, don't fix it.

Kevin Eans

5704 Old Kentucky 54, Philpot

5 Clipping Division  
Kentucky Press  
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332 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

MAR 10 1980  
Ledger & Times  
Murray, Ky.  
Circulation: 7,476

## SS 33 WKU chief dropped the ball in decision

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander recently expressed the fact that he wants to see expanded faculty and administrative involvement in the school's nationally-recognized student newspaper, and yearbook. Because proposed changes would result in the appointment of faculty editors, reports are classifying his actions as an attempt to muzzle the feisty publication.

We, too, see the move as an unnecessary one.

Neither Western's newspaper, the Herald nor the Talisman, the school's yearbook, currently have such positions.

According to Alexander, the implementation of such positions would result in little changes in the way the publications are now being run.

Ironically, last November a faculty committee Alexander instructed to review student publications recommended no substantial changes be made in the operations of either publication.

That obviously didn't suffice. This week Alexander called the committee back wanting to see the following:

- ✓ Expanded university publication committees with power to appoint faculty editors, who in turn would appoint the student editors. Student members of the committee would be appointed by the student government.

- ✓ Academic credit for working on the newspaper and yearbook and a limited staff consisting only of those receiving credit.

Although the WKU president defends his position as saying the college newspaper is no different from a chemistry lab, some are suggesting the proposed changes are the result of the newspaper's continued coverage of Alexander in the midst of such controversial issues as plans for a campus in Glasgow, faculty concerns over his appointment of administrators and his recent failure to meet with other university presidents and Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

The paper, which has a circulation of approximately 10,000 meets most of its expenses from advertising revenues — \$121,824 last year.

Staff members at the paper are currently paid wages amounting to approximately \$45 for a two-week period for a senior reporter instead of receiving college credits.

As we see it, limiting the freedom and creative abilities of the press, or even proposing changes that appear to suggest such offenses, is a serious, and questionable course of action to be taken by any college president.

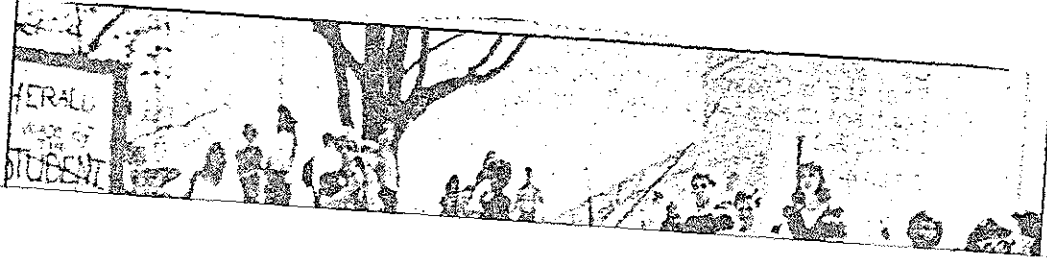
Alexander may be biting off more than he can chew by announcing the need for better fiscal control and stronger organization of two university publications already the recipient of national recognition.

Western's journalism department, headed by Jo-Ann Huff Albers, is one of the most envied and highly-respected journalism departments anywhere. Students who leave WKU are all-but-guaranteed immediate consideration for positions in their field.

To tamper with, or attempt to fix, a program that is in no present need of repairs is uncalled for. Alexander, on the court of journalism, is guilty of a "fourth foul" and should be sent to the bench to contemplate his offenses before being allowed to re-enter the game. (And let's not forget what happens to players after their fifth foul.)

Our stance coincides with that of a profound old adage... "If it ain't broke, why fix it?"

Daily News 3/24/88



USA TODAY • THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1988 • 9A

STATE

ACROSS

# STATESLINE

FROM USA TODAY'S NATIONAL NEWS NETWORK

## KENTUCKY

FRANKFORT — State workforce has dropped by 175 to 33,361 since December because of hiring freeze imposed by Gov. Wilkinson. State's financial problems led to action. ... BOWLING GREEN — 150 students protested Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander's proposal for more administrative control over college publications. Alexander: It won't include editorial control.

Daily News 3/24/88

# Censorship issue cannot be ignored

Rightly or wrongly, Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander has created a furor with his planned changes in the administrative structure of the student newspaper and yearbook.

the administration.

Alexander says, however, that censorship is not intended.

He says it actually would be prevented by making sure the publications director reports to someone, such as the dean of Potter College, who would act as a buffer between the publications director and the president.

## Editorial

The controversy can only harm both Western and Alexander and should be resolved as quickly as possible while making sure fears of censorship are allayed.

Before the current interim publications director, Bob Adams, took over, the publications director had reported to the office of the vice president for academic affairs.

The uproar began after a review of the publications by an ad hoc committee appointed by Alexander.

Alexander also is concerned about financial accountability for the almost \$200,000 spent each year by the publications.

Alexander said the committee did not go far enough in addressing administrative organization, academic attachment or financial responsibility of the publications.

We can't fault Alexander for those positions, but we also understand the concern of critics toward other aspects of his plan.

He then gave a subcommittee of the ad hoc committee the responsibility for implementing changes he believes are needed.

What is needed is a thorough evaluation of Alexander's plan free from the emotions generated by cries of censorship. Only in that way can Alexander and his critics be satisfied that all concerns have been properly addressed.

Critics charge Alexander's plans would result in editorial control of the publications by

That's why we're glad Alexander said Tuesday that he will have professional journalists review the results when the subcommittee has completed its work.



If these journalists decide that implementing Alexander's proposals would create the potential for censorship, we hope he and the regents supporting the plan will accept the findings and reconsider their stance.

It is important that such publications remain the voice of the students rather than of the administration, while at the same time assuring more financial responsibility and the best professional training possible.

## WKU students plan protest on publications

Staff, wire reports

BOWLING GREEN — Students at Western Kentucky University plan a demonstration Wednesday to protest a proposal that critics say would place more administrative control over the school's newspaper and yearbook.

The demonstration is being organized by theater and government students. They say they fear that their departments may suffer if university President Kern Alexander is successful in his plan for the College Heights Herald newspaper and the Talisman yearbook.

"If Dr. Alexander can do this to the Herald, he can do this to any department," said Bruce Cambron, a government and history student.

"He's going to limit the education of everyone on campus," said Melissa Cornett, a government student. "Everybody will lose out."

The demonstration will begin at 11:30 a.m. CST at the Dero Downing University Center. Students plan to march on the administration building.

Meanwhile, the Western Student Publications Alumni Association said yesterday that Alexander was using a recent U.S. Supreme Court censorship decision as an



WKU President Kern Alexander wants changes in newspaper, yearbook.

excuse to stifle the newspaper, which has been aggressive in its reporting about Alexander.

Alexander said last week he wanted changes in the award-winning publications.

He said he wanted a faculty-student committee created to oversee the publications' budgets and help appoint faculty editors who would supervise the publications and have some control over them.

The publications now have faculty advisers, but students make all the decisions on their content.

(Turn to WKU, B5)

## WKU students plan protest on publication control plan

From Page B1

Alexander's plan "would create a situation where the university could illegally try to censor both publications," said Chad Carlton, president of the alumni association.

"We're afraid of that; we're not alleging that," said Carlton, who was Herald editor in the spring of 1987.

The alumni association researched Alexander's plan over the weekend and found it contained much of the same language used in a recent case in which the Supreme Court ruled that administrators at a high school could legally censor the student newspaper.

Alexander's proposal has been criticized by local and national chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, as well as by student and faculty groups and newspapers across the country.

Joe Iracane, chairman of the Western board of regents, blamed The Courier-Journal for the uproar.

"I think it's a little unethical. The Courier-Journal attended an interdepartmental meeting, and that they were invited there by someone, prior to us implementing a structure for the betterment of the university," Iracane told the Daily News in Bowling Green.

The Courier-Journal reported on last Tuesday's meeting of a committee that had been formed last year to study Western's student publications. It was during the meeting that Alexander made his proposals.

David V. Hawpe, editor of The Courier-Journal, said he saw no reason to apologize for the article.

"I think that's one of the more extraordinary comments I've ever heard," Hawpe said. "The story didn't mislead anybody unless those quoted were using words they didn't understand."

Hawpe said he spoke with Alexander after the article appeared last Wednesday and was given no indication it was inaccurate.

## Some say Alexander seeks to widen censorship ruling

By TIM ROBERTS  
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Kern Alexander, the president of Western Kentucky University, is a nationally recognized expert on school law and has written extensively on the subject.

So when WKU journalism alumni learned last week that Alexander wants to extend controls on the university's nationally recognized student newspaper and yearbook, some turned to Alexander's books and articles.

At a news conference yesterday, Chad Carlton — a member of the class of 1986 and president of the 400-member Western Kentucky University Student Publications Alumni Association — outlined what he and others found.

Alexander may be trying to expand a recent U.S. Supreme Court

decision allowing censorship of high school newspapers to the college level, he said.

In "The Law of Schools, Students, and Teachers," a text that he co-authored, Alexander wrote, "Certainly, the school can control the content of school newspaper where a teacher or the principal edits the newspaper and directly control(s) its contents."

Carlton said it appears that Alexander might be using that notion to exert control over WKU's publications.

But the same text also says, "Freedom of the press is a cornerstone of the basic freedoms found in a democracy."

Two months ago, in the case of Hazelwood vs. Kuhlmeier, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed censorship

See ALEXANDER  
PAGE 3, col. 3, this section.

## WKU regent blames paper for flap over publications

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Joe Iracane, chairman of Western Kentucky University's board of regents, has blamed The Courier-Journal for the public outcry over a proposal to assign faculty editors for college publications, which now have faculty advisers.

Under the proposal by WKU President Kern Alexander, the faculty editors would select student editors, who have been selected by their predecessors and faculty advisers.

Alexander made his proposals last Tuesday during a meeting of a committee that had been studying WKU publications. The Courier-Journal, whose reporter sat across the table from Alexander, reported on the meeting.

"I think it's a little unethical The Courier-Journal attended an interdepartmental meeting, and that they were invited there by someone, prior to us implementing a structure for the betterment of the university," Iracane said.

David Hawpe, editor of The Courier-Journal, said there is no reason to apologize for the article.

"I think that's one of the more extraordinary comments I've ever heard," Hawpe said. "The story didn't mislead anybody unless those quoted were using words they didn't understand."

Hawpe said he spoke with Alexander after the article appeared, and that Alexander did not indicate that it was inaccurate.

## Alexander move linked to ruling

Continued from Page B 1

of high school publications that are learning laboratories, give academic credit and have a faculty editor.

A week ago, Alexander called for faculty editors at the College Heights Herald and Tallman yearbook, and for giving academic credit to students who work on them. He also said the publications should be laboratories similar to chemistry labs. He asked a committee to look at ways to implement those plans and report back next week.

"His plan fits neatly into many of the criteria the court said gave administrators at Hazelwood the right to censor," Carlton said.

At the time of the Supreme Court ruling, most legal experts said it would not apply to college publications, said Paul K. McMasters, chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

"But some of us said it was only a matter of time before someone attempted to apply the precepts of Hazelwood at a college level," said McMasters, who is deputy editorial director of USA Today.

Alexander would not answer reporters' questions. A spokesman said he was at home in a meeting yesterday and would hold a news conference within 72 hours.

Later yesterday morning, the university's public-information office released a statement from Alexander, which did not address the controversy but said instead that he had been appointed president of the American Education Finance Association over the weekend in Tampa, Fla. It noted that Alexander had edited the association's latest yearbook.

Carlton called on Alexander to explain himself, and called on alumni, students, faculty members and anyone else concerned about First Amendment rights to write to Alexander and the board of regents to protest.

In other developments yesterday, the journalism society announced the appointment of a team to investigate the situation, and students announced plans to march on WKU's administration building.

Robert Thorp, a retired Louisville Times copy editor and former University of Kentucky journalism professor, will head a three-member group, which Thorp hopes will arrive on campus later this week.

Also on the team are Laura Eipper Hill, consultant journalist at Vanderbilt University, and James Tidwell, journalism professor at Eastern Illinois University.

The protest, planned by students who are not in the journalism program, will take place tomorrow morning.

Christian Ely, a junior majoring in theater who is one of the students planning the protest, said, "If something as good and established as the Herald can be destroyed, I fear for other programs on campus."



# KENTUCKY

# B

## WKU president will fulfill contract, chairman of regents says

By TIM ROBERTS  
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Despite several offers of other jobs, Kern Alexander will remain at the helm of Western Kentucky University for the duration of his four-year contract, according to Joe Iracane, the chairman of Western's board of regents.

Alexander could not be reached for comment on the interest shown in him by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va., where a prestigious position as a professor is reportedly his for the asking.

But Iracane, who met with Alexander yesterday in Owensboro, said Alexander is not

necessarily turning the Virginia university down for good. But Iracane said Alexander does plan to finish his contract. It expires Jan. 24, 1990, although there are provisions for extensions.

Alexander was appointed Western's seventh president in December 1985.

Iracane would not take a firm stance on Alexander's future at Western, but said, "I hope he's going to be at Western forever."

Iracane went on to say that Alexander



Alexander

and the regents "will weigh the situation down the road. He'll continue to get offers, but that's not the priority at this time."

Robert Smith, dean of Virginia Tech's College of Education, said last week that no official action had been taken on hiring Alexander, but he said faculty members were "absolutely overwhelmed" by Alexander's academic achievements.

And University of Kentucky President David P. Roselle, who was Virginia Tech's provost until last June, said that last spring he approved the appointment of Alexander to the position.

Asked if Alexander had given Virginia Tech a final "no," Iracane replied:

"He's not in a position to accept or turn it

(the Virginia offer) down.

"There are other offers and other things involved. He doesn't want to be forced into making a decision at this time," Iracane said.

The position at Virginia Tech's College of Education is one of 15 well-paying distinguished university professorships. Alexander's current salary is \$83,904.

Iracane said Alexander has received "several" offers but would not elaborate on what they were.

"He did not apply for any of the positions; he was nominated," Iracane said.

"The fact that there have been offers of jobs doesn't compromise his leadership posi-

tion at Western," Iracane said.

Controversies involving the Western president were not a factor in Alexander's thinking, Iracane said.

The most recent controversy focuses on Alexander's plans to install a faculty editor of the student newspaper and yearbook and other faculty and administrative involvement — plans that have resulted in a storm of protest from educators and journalists on campus and off.

Iracane said he supports the president's plans. "He has researched the matter, and it's in the best interest of the university."

The issue will come before the regents at their next meeting, now scheduled for April 28.

# The Courier-Journal

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MONDAY MARCH 21, 1988. 35 CENTS

## EDITORIALS

### Words on paper

**I**NDEPENDENT campus newspapers are an enormous nuisance to college presidents. They're always poking their noses where they're not wanted. It's not surprising that a college president would ask, in exasperation, "Shouldn't we do something about that rag?"

The answer is no. And somebody may need to persuade Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander, soon. If the proposal he has launched was a trial balloon, somebody needs to pop it. If, as President Alexander asserts, the furor is over semantics — if he really does not intend to stifle the newspaper within a new supervisory structure — then he needs to get his words straightened out.

The newspaper's independence is an essential component of its success. As first described, the president's plan would diminish that independence, regardless of his intent. It would reduce the quality of campus journalism. And

that, in turn, would diminish the quality of journalism education. Which is reason enough to abandon the plan — without even discussing the First Amendment.

Here we have something in Kentucky, higher education that works, something that has earned a national reputation for excellence.

The WKU journalism program places its graduates on America's best newspapers. The student publications at WKU win major awards, year after year. What's broke?

President Alexander's proposal appears to be based on an inadequate understanding of student newspapers. It also rebuffs a faculty recommendation on this matter.

We believe President Alexander is a wiser academic leader than that. We hope he'll quickly rethink his plan, or restate it in words that make clear his commitment to a free and vigorous campus press — and to an outstanding journalism program that has earned full support.

'My view is . . . that freedom of speech means you shall not do something to people either for the views they have or the views they express or the words they speak or write.'

— Justice Hugo Black

# WKU chief to stay

From Daily News  
and AP reports

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander has told the chairman of the university's Board of Regents that he will not leave the presidency to accept an offer from a Virginia university.

"We had dinner together Sunday night and (Alexander) told me he had no intention of making a decision at this time related to the job," said Joe Iracane, chairman of the board. "(Alexander said) he has more important responsibilities on hand."

Alexander was offered a university distinguished professorship at Virginia Polytech Institute and State University, according to Robert Smith, dean of Virginia Tech's College of Education. The president was recommended for the position and did not apply, Iracane said.

Distinguished professors at Virginia Tech — of which the school has 15 — carry the rank of full professor with tenure. Alexander's current salary is \$83,904.

The president will not leave Western before his four-year contract expires Jan. 14, 1990, Iracane said. The decision to remain at Western does not mean the offer has been turned down for good, Iracane said.

The president could not be reached for comment.

Iracane said Alexander has re-

ceived several offers but would not elaborate on what they were.

"He did not apply for any of these positions," Iracane said. "He was nominated."

Alexander, 48, was the prime choice of a faculty panel at Virginia Tech, which conducted a nationwide search for a top educator last year to fill the post, according to a Virginia University spokesman.

Alexander, who has been president of Western since December 1985, is a nationally recognized expert in school finance and has been a consultant in that area to several states.

Smith, dean of Virginia Tech's College of Education, said no official action had been taken on hiring Alexander, but he said faculty members were "absolutely overwhelmed" by Alexander's academic achievements.

Iracane said controversies surrounding the president were not a factor in whether Alexander would accept another job offer.

Last week, Alexander announced plans to install faculty editors to oversee the student newspaper and yearbook — a move that has been widely condemned by journalists and educators.

Continued Back Page  
Column 5, This Section

## Alexander will remain at Western

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander will not leave his post to accept a prestigious offer from Virginia Tech, according to a published report.

"The fact that there have been offers of jobs doesn't compromise his leadership position at Western," Joe Iracane, chairman of Western Kentucky's Board of Regents, said in today's editions of The Courier-Journal.

The Louisville newspaper had reported Sunday that Alexander, who has been Western Kentucky's president since December 1985, was considering leaving to accept a distinguished professorship at Virginia Tech.

But the president will not leave Western Kentucky before his four-year contract expires Jan. 14, 1990, Iracane said Sunday after meeting with Alexander.

The president could not be reached for comment.

Alexander's decision to stay on at Western Kentucky does not mean he has turned the Blacksburg, Va., school down for good, Iracane said.

"He's not in a position to accept or turn it down," Iracane told the newspaper Sunday. "There are other offers and other things involved. He doesn't want to be forced into making a decision at this time."

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Iracane said he supports the president's plans.

"He has researched the matter, and it's in the best interest of the university," the regent said.

Iracane would not take a firm stance on Alexander's future at Western Kentucky, but said, "I hope he's going to be at Western forever."

The issue will come before the board of regents at their next meeting, scheduled for April 28.

Iracane said Alexander and the regents "will weigh the situation down the road. He'll continue to get offers, but that's not the priority at this time."

## Alexander will remain at Western, report says

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander will remain at the school through the duration of his contract, which expires in 1990, according to a published report.

Despite interest shown him by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Alexander will not leave before his contract expires, The Courier-Journal reported today.

Alexander was considering leaving his post to accept a distinguished professorship at the Blacksburg, Va., school.

□ **Alexander won't change school newspaper proposal.** Page B2.

But Alexander's decision to stay at Western does not mean he has turned Virginia Tech down for good, said Joe Iracane, chairman of Western's board of regents, who met with Alexander yesterday in Owensboro.

"He's not in a position to accept or turn it (the Virginia offer) down," Iracane said yesterday. "There are other offers and other things involved. He doesn't want to be forced into making a decision at this time."

Alexander has been president of Western since December 1985. His four-year contract expires Jan. 24, 1990, although there are provisions for extensions.

The president could not be reached for comment.

Distinguished professors at Virginia Tech have no teaching duties but carry the rank of full professor and tenure. The school has 15 such professors.

(Turn to REPORT, B2)

## Western president stands by plan to put faculty on school paper

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says he won't change his mind about adding faculty editors at the college newspaper and yearbook despite criticism of the plan.

Alexander has said the faculty editors would review stories for the College Heights Herald before their publication.

The national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, the editorial director of USA Today and two former College Heights Herald faculty advisers have denounced Alexander's decision.

No major changes in the way the newspaper is being run were deemed necessary by a faculty committee that Alexander asked to review Herald policies in November. Alexander said Tuesday, however, that changes were needed. He discussed the changes he had in mind and appointed a subcommittee that is to report back to him by March 30.

The subcommittee, coordinated by the head of WKU's journalism department, Jo-Ann Huff Albers, met for the first time Friday.

Ms. Albers said Thursday that she did not think Alexander's plans were final and that the subcommittee's findings and the

opinions of the full committee probably would not parallel what Alexander had said.

Alexander said Thursday that he would not change his approach.

Of the biggest concern, the creation of a faculty editor, Alexander said, "There is nothing wrong with faculty review."

He said he merely wanted broader student involvement, clearer financial and administrative responsibilities and some kind of academic status for the newspaper.

Faculty members and students rejected the last point, saying that turning the newspaper into a classroom project would destroy its reputation.

Alexander said his model for the student publications was one developed by the approach of David B. Whitaker, who was director of university publications from 1970 until he retired last July.

But Whitaker said Friday, "I never edited the copy, and I didn't make it a point to read copy."

Whitaker called Alexander's plans "purely a violation of the First Amendment," which guarantees freedom of speech and of the press.



Kern Alexander

## Report says WKU president will be staying

From Page B1

Alexander, 48, was the choice of a faculty panel at Virginia Tech, which conducted a nationwide search for a top educator last year to fill the post, said University of Kentucky President David P. Roselle, who was the Virginia school's provost until he assumed the UK post last June.

Although he would not discuss why Alexander might want to leave Western Kentucky, Iracane said controversies surrounding the president's tenure were not a factor.

Alexander is a nationally recognized expert in school finance and has been a consultant in that area to numerous states.

# EDITORIALS

## THE **Sunday** TENNESSEAN

### Educator tries to squelch press

**S**TUDENT reporters at Western Kentucky University recently learned a crucial lesson of journalism — good work can be rewarded with scorn.

Mr. Kern Alexander, WKU president, announced last week that the university newspaper, *The College Heights Herald*, would be removed from student control and turned into a laboratory product.

That change could greatly alter the philosophy of the newspaper. Instead of student reporters and editors pursuing real stories of interest on campus, they would merely be going through the motions of journalism to satisfy a faculty editor.

Depending on the professor, that laboratory experience could be educational, but it wouldn't be what the students at WKU now have — a real newspaper.

President Alexander is also recommending that the newspaper and yearbook staffs be limited to students who are taking journalism classes for credit, and giving the school's publications committee the authority to name faculty editors. He also named an ad hoc committee, which is being chaired by the head of the journalism department, to review all of those proposals.

It seems that President Alexander's decision to take the punch out of the student newspaper may not have been capricious.

In recent months, *The College Heights Herald* has reported on such stories as Mr. Alexander's proposal to locate a satellite campus in Glasgow, Ky., his failure to attend a meeting that Gov. Wallace Wilkinson held for Kentucky university presidents, the concerns on campus about some appointments he has made, and his recent divorce.

*The College Heights Herald* reporters and editors proved their good news judgment in selecting these stories, all of which were bound to be of high interest at WKU. The stories were aggressively pursued, and accurately reported.

And, sadly enough, President Alexander's reaction was a common one. History is replete with people who see something they don't like in print and react by trying to kill the messenger.

Politicians and public officials have tried — sometimes successfully — to stonewall the media. Those who are grinding bigger axes have even tried to ruin a reporter's career, take a broadcaster's license away, or put a newspaper out of business — all because they were reporting the truth.

But the saddest — and most infuriating — aspect of the WKU saga is that Mr. Alexander is not only a public official — he is also an educator. As such, he should have more value on pursuit of the truth and valid educational opportunity than on his own personal considerations. ■

6A • TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1988 • USA TODAY

ACROSS

# STATESLINE

FROM USA TODAY'S NATIONAL NEWS NETWORK

## KENTUCKY

**FRANKFORT** — Gov. Wilkinson signed bill creating Kentucky Educational Savings Plan Trust. Kentuckians will be able to make long-term investments for child's college or vocational school education through trust. ... **BOWLING GREEN** — Western Kentucky University students plan daylong demonstration Wednesday to protest school president's plan to give administration more control of college newspaper, yearbook.

In our view

## Press repression at WKU

We are appalled at the blatant attempt by Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander to control the content of the university's award-winning student newspaper, the College Heights Herald.

Apparently upset about stories in the student newspaper that he considers unfavorable, Alexander has proposed appointing faculty editors for both the College Heights Herald and the Talisman, the school's yearbook. The faculty editor apparently would have the ultimate authority in deciding which stories were published in the student newspaper, a power the faculty adviser now does not have.

In calling for a faculty editor, Alexander is ignoring the recommendations of a faculty committee he appointed last year to review student publications. That committee recommended no substantial changes in the operation of newspaper and yearbook.

However, Alexander has called the committee back and directed it to draw up plans for faculty editors, give academic credit to students working on the newspaper, limit the student staff to those receiving credit, and increase the power of the university's publications committee. What is the use of the president appointing a committee, if Alexander is going to dictate what the committee decides? For the protection of their own cred-

ibility, the committee members should refuse to go along with this sham.

The College Heights Herald is not an irresponsible "scandal sheet." In our view, it is the best college newspaper in Kentucky. Its editors and reporters refuse to be public relations tools for the university. Instead, they provide WKU students with hard-hitting stories that require excellent reporting.

We have the highest esteem for the journalism program at WKU. We base much of that opinion on the quality of WKU students who have come to work for this newspaper. Western consistently produces skilled journalists who have the desire to immediately have a positive impact as professional journalists. We think they picked up a lot of those practical skills by working on the College Heights Herald.

The College Heights Herald is an outstanding learning ground for students because it gives them the freedom to make their own decisions and pursue the stories they think other students want to read. In addition to unwisely stifling freedom of the press, Alexander's recommendations would damage both an outstanding student newspaper and journalism program.

When someone in power attempts to stifle the press, it is a sure sign of the abuse of that power.

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## Alexander defends publications proposals

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander said his proposals for more administrative control over the student newspaper and yearbook have been mislabeled as an attempt at censorship.

"There have been some world records established as far as leaps to conclusion. I have never heard such wild conjecture as I have heard," he said Wednesday.

"Right now ... if the president wanted to censor the student newspaper there couldn't be a better arrangement. What I proposed is the opposite of that — something that would create a buffer between the (newspaper) and the administration."

Alexander said there is little difference between his proposed faculty editors for the College Heights Herald and the Talisman and the faculty advisers they have now.

He made his proposal Tuesday to a faculty committee that had recommended making no substantial changes in the publications' operations.

He also instructed the committee to expand WKU's publications committee, which would have the task of appointing faculty editors. The faculty editors would then appoint student editors, who are now chosen by their predecessors and faculty advisers.

Robert Adams, faculty adviser

*Continued on page 10*

## Alexander defends publications proposals

*Continued from page 1*

to the Herald, said the title of faculty editor seems to imply the faculty member would have a final say in the newspaper's content — something from which he says he steers clear.

"I think there's a great mis-

conception that I determine the content of the newspaper ... that's just not so," Adams said.

"(People) outside of journalism, particularly if they deal with students, sometimes don't understand the concept. They think we should be able to tell students what

not to do — because they can tell people to do that."

The Herald has, at times, drawn criticism from the WKU administration. Last spring, university officials labeled the newspaper as insensitive for an article it published about a black, unwed mother who gave birth to her second child the week before the article ran in the Herald's magazine section. The article and pictures stirred protests by black students.

Alexander said his proposals stemmed partly from his desire for stronger organization and better fiscal control of the publications.

The Herald operates on advertising and circulation revenues of about \$122,000 a year. The university supplies the building space and utilities, as well as faculty-related costs, Alexander said. Faculty advisers are allowed to reduce their teaching duties by one or two classes a semester, Alexander said, which adds up to one-quarter to one-half of their salaries being used indirectly for the student publications.

"Money control is always a concern of ours," Alexander said. "We have to be fiscally responsible and try to stretch our dollars every way we can."

The Herald is a three-time winner of the national Pacemaker Award, the highest award given by the Associated Collegiate Press. The Talisman has won national honors every year since the mid-1970s.



Classified B4

## Proposals for changes in WKU paper stir concern

By Bill Estep

South-central Kentucky bureau

BOWLING GREEN — Calls of protest and alarm poured in to Western Kentucky University's journalism department yesterday in the wake of President Kern Alexander's request for changes in the university's award-winning newspaper and yearbook.

Alexander on Tuesday said he wanted a committee of faculty and students to oversee the publications' budgets, help appoint faculty editors and student editors and perhaps suggest story ideas.

He said he wanted students to gain academic credit for working on the College Heights Herald newspaper and the Talisman yearbook.

The publications now do not have a faculty editor but rather a faculty adviser. The adviser does not control the paper or its content; that control rests entirely with the student editors.

Journalism students and faculty members reacted angrily to Alexander's request because they fear the changes will infringe on the newspaper's autonomy and hurt its ability to cover WKU and criticize the administration as an independent, commercial newspaper.

"This would definitely help to dilute the voice the Herald has," said Editor Carla Harris, a senior.

"It seems to me there's an  
PROPOSALS, B2)

## Proposals for WKU paper cause concern

From Page B1

interest in controlling the content of the newspaper," said faculty adviser Bob Adams.

Limiting the newspaper's freedom would hurt efforts to recruit high-quality students to the nationally recognized WKU journalism program, students and faculty fear.

"It will cause irreparable damage to what has been recognized as one of the best journalism programs in the nation," said journalism professor Jim Highland.

The College Heights Herald won the Pacemaker Award, the Associated Collegiate Press' top award, in 1981, 1982 and 1984.

Graduates of the program work as journalists across the nation. Many called yesterday to ask how they could help.

However, there was some feeling by day's end that perhaps there wasn't as much cause for concern as was first thought.

Jo-Ann Huff Albers, head of Western's journalism department, said after an afternoon meeting with Alexander that she thought Alexander did not want to control

the paper.

"I really see the operation continuing as it does," with the same editorial independence, she said.

Albers was appointed to head a committee to recommend guidelines for carrying out the changes Alexander wants. Its report is due in two weeks.

Alexander said his intent was not to muzzle the newspaper.

He said that under current guidelines, he appointed the director of university publications and the faculty adviser for the newspaper.

He said he had three basic goals: Continuity of faculty leadership for the student publications; improved fiscal accountability and reporting to the administration; and better administrative attachment to the university.

"We're trying to ensure that the student newspaper has some continuity and gets stronger in the future," he said.

Albers said Alexander seemed to be flexible on several other points, including credit for working on the publications, and had given the committee free reign to recom-

mend how to accomplish his three basic goals.

She said she was optimistic that a compromise could be reached that would satisfy Alexander, the student publications, the department's alumni and professional news organizations.

The understanding yesterday of what Alexander wanted, and what the role of the faculty advisory committee and the faculty editors would be, differed with Tuesday's understanding by most people in the department.

There were some private suggestions that Alexander backed down from an original hard-line proposal because of the protest.

He said his proposal had not changed, but rather that it had been misunderstood and that people had overreacted because of that.

Some students and faculty members think the newspaper's sometimes sharp criticism of Alexander's decisions played a role in the move for a change.

"There's a relationship between what we've done and what happened," Harris said.

Among other things, the paper

has covered the uproar over Western's plans to develop a four-year campus at Glasgow and wrote an article contradicting Alexander's version of when he first talked about the plan to the Board of Regents.

Alexander said the newspaper's articles and editorials had nothing to do with the changes he wants.

"I think generally they do a good job," he said.

# News

from Western Kentucky University

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## WKU PRESIDENT REQUESTS REVIEW OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander is asking for a two-step review of recommendations concerning operation of student publications at the school before he takes action.

On Friday, Alexander met with the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Publications and Nancy Green, a newspaper publisher from Richmond, Ind., to have the committee explain the report it submitted to him on Thursday.

Ms. Green, who was general manager of student publications at the University of Kentucky and the University of Texas, before becoming a Gannett newspaper executive, will review the subcommittee recommendations.

Then she will meet with a committee of professional journalists to seek their review of what she considers an appropriate model for student publications at WKU, including operational and financial aspects. Her model will be based on review of existing publication operations at WKU and models of various types of student publications programs around the country.

Ms. Green has served 14 colleges and universities in several states in a similar capacity.

The subcommittee recommendations include:

\*Changing the titles of the Office of University Publications, the Committee on University Publications and the Director of University Publications to replace the word university with student to reflect the fact that the publications are student efforts.

\*Expanding the student publications committee to include representatives of faculty, students and professional journalists.

\*Establishing policies and procedures related to the advisory committee, leadership of publications and publications operation.

The subcommittee report stressed the tradition of student editorial autonomy and the generous university support of publications in its report.

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Journalism