

Kentucky Kernel

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U.S. defense cutbacks hit ROTC students

Low funds send some Air Force trainees searching elsewhere for tuition money

By GRAHAM SHELBY
Senior Staff Writer

Brian Dillon planned to learn how to fly Air Force jets in college while his ROTC scholarship paid for his education.

Four years later, the UK senior

school money had disappeared this year because of U.S. Department of Defense cutbacks.

The cutbacks left students with two options — reclassify themselves into another field or leave the Air Force, subsequently refunding tuition they already have spent.

Dillon chose the latter.

"The scholarship cuts at the time I was in were for the people who were trying to get pilot slots," he

said. Dillon's scholarship was for computer science, but becoming an Air Force pilot "was maybe 90 percent of why I was there."

In an effort to shave the defense budget, the Pentagon is reducing the number of aircraft being commissioned. Consequently, the Air Force won't produce as many pilots.

The Air Force's fiscal budget for new ROTC scholarships for 1992

will be about \$21.6 million, down from \$28.7 million in 1991.

That translates into 1,300 fewer students attending college on scholarships that previously were available.

Air Force ROTC media relations chief Terry Boksan said since the cuts were announced last April, pilot slots have "become extremely competitive ... only the top students are getting them."

The Air Force has recently begun what Boksan called a "grandfathering" program to deal with cases like Dillon.

Under the new plan, fewer new pilot applicants will be accepted so the Air Force can accommodate its backlog.

Cadets may be deferred to other duties for a year or two before they begin undergraduate pilot training but will retain their scholarships.

Debated budget approved by SGA

By JOE BRAUN
Contributing Writer

Bickering over the 1991-92 Student Government Association budget almost caused a halt in activities funded by the group.

Student senators, in a debate led by Senator at Large Misty Weaver, questioned the specifics of expenses in the proposed budget.

Many senators said the budget should be passed without question because of past votes. Weaver, however, did not agree.

"Just because it's been done in the past, doesn't mean we should do it," Weaver said. "We need time to discuss the budget."

The budget was passed by the senate with a majority of the senate vote.

Many proposals were made to table the budget, including one by Senator at Large Ashley Boyd. She proposed tabling the budget and temporarily operating on the interim budget passed by the interim senate during the summer. Her proposal was never voted on because of a heated debate among senate members.

SGA President Scott Crosbie assured members of the senate that he "would be willing to sit down with them and break down as much of the budget as I can."

The defeat of the budget could have led to a fund freeze because it wouldn't have an operating budget. Senator at Large Rob Elhenicky said a budget was necessary.

Crosbie said the budget defeat could have placed students' safety in jeopardy. Without an approved budget, he said, the SGA-sponsored escort service would not be operational.

"We need a budget," Elhenicky said. "By not passing this budget, we would need to debate everything — even buying a simple package of pencils for the office."

One part of the budget in question dealt with \$1,700 budgeted for SGA office renovations. Senators had many questions about how the money had been spent.

The senate also approved a bill recommending allocation of \$6,000 to help bring movie director Spike Lee to UK.

Student Activities Board and the Office of Minority Affairs donated another \$6,500 for Lee. Controversy erupted as to whether SGA could afford the contribution for Lee.

The senate approved a motion that SGA would only contribute funds if the event's revenue replaced some of that money.

One senator asked if two black organizations, who are protesting SAB activities as a result of publishing a racial slur in the SAB's "Wildcat Datebook" a few weeks ago, would attend Lee's speech.

SAB is a co-sponsor of the event. Lee's speech would be one of the many highlights of Black History Month at UK.

SMOKE SIGNALS



The ashtrays in the old boardroom of the Administration Building were used often during the smoke-filled meetings of years gone by. But now smoking is uncommon — seemingly taboo — at meetings. One UK administrator uses the ashtrays as coasters for his drinks. More areas of campus are adopting policies designating smoking areas. See stories in Perspective, page 6.

GREG EANS/Kernal Staff

UK professors see Thomas appointed soon

By BOBBY KING
Senior Staff Writer

Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas has some hurdles yet to cross but appears to be headed toward Senate confirmation, two UK political science professors said yesterday.

"My crystal ball is a little fuzzy," said Patricia Pauly, whose area of research includes judicial politics. "But barring any major blunders, he is going to be confirmed."

Bradley C. Canon, whose focus of research is public law and judicial processes, said he believes the likelihood of Thomas' confirmation is "pretty high."

"I think for him not to be confirmed, he would have to blow it somehow in the hearings," Canon said. "Perhaps by indicating a belief in natural law that people might find offensive."

Canon said natural law — at best a hazy subject to define — basically is the belief in a law that is independent of any law made by man, such as laws man considers made by God.

One tenet of natural law that the Supreme Court held in the last century was that women shouldn't vote or take part in politics because their natural place is in the home as wives and mothers, Canon said.

"If he espoused that kind of natural law," Canon said, "it wouldn't go over well."

Thomas managed to avoid a major confrontation on the subject Tuesday and has steered clear of

"I think for him not to be confirmed, he would have to blow it somehow in the hearing."

Patricia Pauly,
UK political science professor.

trouble so far. Thomas seemed either very impressive or very cautious depending on individual political persuasion, Pauly said.

"In essence it depends on who you listen to," she said. "His friends and supporters naturally tried to put a very positive spin on his performance ... Those who aren't inclined to support his nomination were more reluctant to say that he passed with flying colors."

"One of the concerns that I think emerged was that there was some sense that he was back-pedaling or soft-pedaling his earlier positions," she said.

Pauly said unlike recent appointee David Souter, Thomas had a record of public speeches as well as articles published in papers showing some of his views.

Sens. Joseph Biden (D-Del.) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) challenged Thomas to explain his positions on several of those issues.

"He had a paper trail," Pauly said. "There was a sense that he was backing away from some of his more controversial claims on those papers."

Since his nomination two months ago, Thomas' qualifications have

been under fire. Canon thinks Thomas is not the best choice President Bush could have made to replace retired justice Thurgood Marshall.

"Not by any means," Canon said. "Bush is just babbling. That's not to say that (Thomas) is unqualified. But he certainly is not the best. I'm not impressed with his qualifications. He's been a judge only 17 months. He was largely a political ideologue for the Reagan Administration before that. He certainly doesn't come to the court with impressive credentials."

The American Bar Association rated Thomas as "qualified," their middle-of-the-road ranking, Pauly said.

"President Bush called him the 'best qualified person.' The legal community did not give him their highest endorsement," she said. "They called him 'qualified' — not incompetent — but not a stellar judge or prospective justice."

Experience, Pauly said, is not always a good measuring stick for the Supreme Court.

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UK student indicted on 2 murder counts

By CAROLINE SHIVELY
Staff Writer

Jayant "Jay" Katz, 20, a UK architecture sophomore, has been indicted on two counts of murder for the shooting deaths of his father and stepmother in Montgomery County, Md.

Katz was arrested Aug. 11 for the deaths of Norman N. Katz, 50, and Michelle R. Filling-Katz, 36, earlier that day.

Katz was registered for classes at UK for the fall semester but withdrew. UK does not plan to involve itself in the investigation, said David Stockham, UK's dean of students.

"There is no occasion for the University to get involved in that he was not enrolled at the University," Stockham said.

Katz also was indicted by a grand jury on two counts of use of a handgun in the commission of a felony.

He is being held without bail in the Montgomery County Detention Center in Rockville, Md., until his trial.

The trial originally was scheduled for Nov. 12 but has been postponed because of new evidence within the state's possession.

"The trial couldn't go on at that time because of a voluminous discovery by investigators," said Ted Wiessman, one of the lawyers who is handling Katz's case. "Given the

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Thomas remains vague on abortion

By JAMES ROWLEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas said yesterday he was "very, very pained" by the thought of back-alley abortions and insisted he would have an open mind as a justice about keeping medically safe abortion legal.

However, he declined under persistent questioning to say whether he believed the Constitution protected a woman's right to end her pregnancy.

On the second day of his Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings, Thomas was immediately confronted on the issue by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio.

Over and over, Metzenbaum pressed for his view. Over and over, Thomas refused to say how he would vote on challenges to the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

To answer that question "would undermine my ability to sit in an impartial way on such an important case," he said.

"I have no reason or agenda to

prejudge the issue ... or a predilection to rule one way or another on the issue of abortion," he added.

Thomas did offer fuller comment when asked about another hot issue before the high court — prayer in public schools.

When Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., discussed the feelings decades ago of a Jewish elementary school boy who left the room each day while his classmates recited a prayer, Thomas said, "Any policy of exclusion should be considered inappropriate."

Thomas, who if confirmed to replace Thurgood Marshall would become only the second black justice in history, also was asked why he had criticized Supreme Court decisions upholding affirmative action programs to remedy discrimination.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., expressed concern about whether Thomas would respect the intent of Congress while interpreting civil rights laws that have long been regarded as requiring affirm

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'Jesus Christ Superstar' comes to UK

By JOHN DYER FORT
Contributing Critic

The Lexington Musical Theater opens its 20th anniversary season with "Jesus Christ Superstar" tonight at the Ois A. Singletary Center for the Arts.

The production is a fully dramatized and choreographed version of the last seven days in the life of Jesus.

This production of "Superstar" is based on the idea that it was not a certain few — like Herod or Pilate — who crucified Jesus, but a mob of people, and to a greater extent, all human beings.

"First, I was thinking this was Jesus' story," said director Vic Chaney, who did his graduate work in UK Theatre and is the artistic direc-

tor for the Lexington Actor's Guild. "Then I thought it was Judas' story, Jesus' right-hand man. Then I decided it was the mob's story. I mean, at the beginning, they're calling Jesus the Messiah, but by the end they're yelling 'Crucify Him!'"

The cast is made up of a large mob that occupies the stage during the entire show.

The mob portrays the apostles and followers of Jesus at one point, his accusers and attackers the next.

If a certain character is needed for the story, like Peter or Pilate, they step out, do their part and then return to the mob.

"It's to show that these certain few could have been anybody," Chaney said. "Only Jesus and Judas stay in character throughout the show."

"In 'Superstar,' Judas criticizes Jesus for helping Magdalene, a prostitute. Judas thinks it looks bad

for the movement. The cast naturally feels Jesus is right because he's Jesus. But then, I asked them how many of them actually knew a prostitute, or had a friend who knew a prostitute. We certainly don't want our politicians with prostitutes. I wanted the cast to think about what they would do if they lived 2,000 years ago," he said.

Chaney and assistant director Billy Breed choreographed the musical production to fully dramatize the story. The lyrics raise the question whether Jesus was the Messiah or just another protest leader spreading a message.

The complete "rock opera," which was first released in a hit album of 1971 and later appeared on Broadway, is by Andrew Lloyd Webber, who also wrote the scores to both "Cats" and "Phantom of the Opera." The lyrics are by Tim Rice.

The "rock opera" was conceived

at a time when the themes of peace, love, brotherhood and the evils of authority were popularized in the youth movements of the 1960s.

For many, Jesus — the anti-establishment protest leader — was the consummate hippie who paid the ultimate price.

The 1971 album, which sold millions of copies, echoes many popular themes of the 1970s. The score exhibits many emotions, including violent passion.

Veteran musical director Leah Pace has assembled an orchestra made up of Lexington Philharmonic regulars and members of various local rock bands for the production.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" opens tonight and runs through Sunday, September 15, at the Ois A. Singletary Center for the Arts. Tickets for all shows are available at the Singletary Center box office for \$8, \$10, and \$12.

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World record hurdler recovering from surgery

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Less than a year before the 1992 Olympics, world record hurdler Roger Kingdom has begun rehabilitation from the most debilitating knee injury an

athlete can suffer.

Kingdom, 29, had the torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee replaced with another tendon in an operation performed last week by University of Pittsburgh sports physician Freddie Fu.

A torn anterior cruciate ligament, which runs alongside the knee and prevents it from buckling, probably is the most serious injury an athlete may face, Fu said.

Nevertheless, Fu is optimistic Kingdom can compete successfully next year.

"If it were you or me, it would be much harder," Fu said. "But you cannot underestimate the willpower of athletes."

Kingdom's knee is bandaged and braced but is not in a cast, and he may begin running in a swimming pool in about two weeks.

"Roger feels comfortable with the program he is in," Fu said. Kingdom is trying to become the first athlete to win gold medals in the 110-meter hurdles in three consecutive Olympics. He won at Los

Angeles in 1984 and Seoul in 1988, then set the world record of 12.92 seconds in August 1989.

An increasing number of athletes are making successful recoveries from anterior cruciate ligament operations, but the rehabilitation is slow and difficult.

Penn State running back Blair Thomas couldn't play football in 1988, eight months after undergoing the surgery, and did not play again until 1989. Thomas was nine years younger than Kingdom when he had surgery.

To run in the 1992 Olympics, Kingdom must qualify at the U.S. team trials in New Orleans June 19-28, or nine months from now.

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LAZARUS

Thomas

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"Some of the most well-respected justices had very limited experience. Some even have no prior judicial experience. So experience isn't necessarily a prerequisite for being an effective Supreme Court justice," Pauly said.

Pauly pointed out that former Chief Justice Earl Warren, who is well-respected by many legal historians, had never served on the bench prior to being appointed to the Supreme Court.

As the possibility of Thomas' confirmation increases, people are questioning how the prospective new justice will affect the court's balance.

"He's replacing Marshall, who was most sympathetic, I suppose, to laws or doctrines that enhanced racial equality as he saw it," Canon said. "He was broadly sympathetic to First Amendment's freedom of speech and press claims, and he was certainly sympathetic to defendant's claims in criminal appeals."

"It seems quite likely that Thomas will not have these sympathies to some extent, although Marshall was usually in the minority anyway. It will probably provide another vote to overturn Roe vs. Wade."

Roe vs. Wade was the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that recognized a woman's right to an abortion.

But Pauly isn't ready to brand Thomas as the hard-core conservative many people believe him to be.

"There's a long-standing bit of conventional wisdom that holds that we cannot predict the behavior of nominees once they reach the court," she said.

"Earl Warren again comes to mind," Pauly said. "Nominated by President Eisenhower, Earl Warren had a life-long tradition of service to the Republican Party and was expected to be very conservative once on the court."

Chief Justice Warren became the leader of an activist court that plagued Eisenhower and the conservatives for many years.

"Eisenhower called it 'the biggest damned-fool mistake I ever made,'" Pauly said.

"I think Bush is clearly hoping for a conservative. But what he gets, well, only time will tell. If he behaves as expected, his nomination will strengthen the conservative majority on the Supreme Court," she added.

Action

Continued from page 1

native action hiring.

Thomas said he would follow the intentions of lawmakers and added that his criticisms of Congress and of Supreme Court decisions were made when he chaired the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

"I advocated as an advocate, and now I will rule as a judge," Thomas said.

But it was Thomas' views on individual privacy and abortion that most interested his Democratic questioners.

Thomas recalled that during the era when abortions were barred by law "you heard the hushed whispers about illegal abortions and the individuals who performed them in a less-than-safe environment."

"If a woman is subjected to an environment like that, on a personal level, certainly, I am very, very pained by that," Thomas said. "I think any of us would be. I wouldn't want to see people subjected to torture of that nature."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., expressed surprise at Thomas' insistence that he had no opinion on the landmark 1973 abortion decision even though he had cited the case in several speeches

and articles.

"I can't believe that all of this was done in a vacuum, in the absence of any clear consideration of Roe vs. Wade," Leahy told Thomas.

Outside the hearing room, Leahy said, "I'm not satisfied with the answers," adding that he intended to ask follow-up questions.

Metzenbaum, who opposed Thomas when the Senate confirmed him as a federal judge last year, told reporters that Thomas' refusal to answer the abortion question "makes it more difficult to vote for him."

Thomas also was pressed on whether he had undergone what Metzenbaum called a "confirmation conversion" when on the first day of his hearings he disavowed his earlier advocacy of using natural, or higher, law principles to interpret the Constitution.

Opponents say such a "natural law" theory could be invoked to outlaw abortion.

Thomas said his writings about natural law were partly an attempt to "ask the basic question of how do you get rid of slavery."

President Bush, meanwhile, praised Thomas' performance. "He's doing a superb job, he knows exactly how to handle himself and that's what's coming through," the president said.

Katz

Continued from page 1

issue in this case, it just couldn't go on that soon."

"The psychologist has also examined him, and that will have bearing on the case."

Bob Dean, with the Maryland State Attorney's Office, said there is a chance of a mental defense for Katz in the case. Wiessman said he has not yet decided on the defense.

This defense is called the responsibility defense, meaning Katz is not criminally responsible for his actions. This is better known in Kentucky as an insanity plea, Dean said.

"Our heartfelt concern goes out to everyone involved," Stockham said. "I am always saddened when a young person encounters such a grave situation."

If he is cleared of the charges brought against him, Stockham said Katz would be free to come back to UK.

"If a person is innocent, they're welcome here," he said. "If the courts of the land discover someone is innocent, then we would certainly not prevent them from coming to UK."

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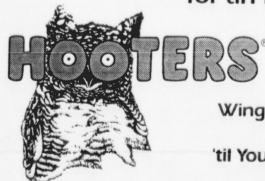
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GREG EANS/Kernal Staff

Smoking being restricted in more areas on campus

By GREGORY A. HALL
Associate Editor

While many departments and buildings are forming policies to restrict smoking on campus, the University has no specific policy. And don't expect it to form one anytime soon.

The University of Louisville proposed a smoking policy in 1988 that would limit smoking universitywide to hallways and other common areas and would divide cafeterias into smoking and non-smoking areas.

After members the Kentucky General Assembly threatened to hit U of L in the pocketbook, the University modified its policy.

The power of tobacco in the commonwealth is immense.

"Judging from the quotes that were in the paper in regard to the University of Louisville incident, I would say that's probably true," said UK administrator T. Lynn Williamson.

But Williamson, who is in charge of UK's personnel policies, including smoking, said that "passion" involved in the issue is understandable.

"It is a method by which many of the citizens of the state of Kentucky make their living," he said.

The issue even raises the ire of those who know nothing about how to hang tobacco.

"I assure you that it's a volatile, emotional issue," Williamson said.

Nonetheless, many groups are trying to implement a smoking policy, including the Registrar's Office.

University Registrar Randall Dahl

said his office's planned moving makes the timing right.

"We're going to move to the Funkhouser Building and when we move, it will give us an opportunity to institute a restrictive smoking policy that will take smoking out of the office areas," Dahl said. "And this is the overwhelming preference of the staff here."

Currently in the Gillis Building, Dahl said the only area of the building where smoking is not permitted is the room where transcripts are kept.

That's despite a notice on front of the building, which prohibits smoking.

"We're not quite sure where that comes from," Dahl said. "That probably relates to fire marshal considerations. The fact that it's written in gold suggests to me that it's been there quite some time."

The regulation probably was made when the building was used for some other purpose, he said.

About five of his 40 employees smoke, he said.

"The few smokers that we have, we request that they exhibit maximum courtesy and consideration for others if they smoke," Dahl said.

Employees have been surveyed and the smokers have been consulted about the plan, Dahl said, but he

The move to a new office "will give us an opportunity to institute a restrictive smoking policy. ... And that is the overwhelming preference of the staff here."

University Registrar Randall Dahl on the possibility of restricting smoking in his office.

knows he has a job ahead. "It's a difficult thing to pull off internally," he said.

Despite what might be expected when a policy is implemented, Williamson said when staff are consulted, notice is given far in advance. "It's been happening like we would want it to happen peacefully with less controversy," Dahl said.

With one major exception: Lexington Community College. This summer the school posted signs that said students could no longer smoke in the buildings.

That drew some protest from students at LCC. Administrators, however, said the policy is not absolute and that smoking areas may be set up.

"They just did what they did without asking anybody," Williamson said. "Where it has been done other than LCC, I have not heard a word from anybody."

The University tries not to be dictatorial about smoking, he said.

"We are very sensitive to both the interests of the smokers as well as the interests of the non-smokers," Williamson said.



LINDSAY CAMPBELL/Kernal Staff

ABOVE: Psychology sophomore David Blair (left) and civil engineering sophomore Bobby Bishop smoke between classes in White Hall Classroom Building. LEFT: Smoking inside the Gillis Building was restricted before it became the Registrar's Office. Currently employees are allowed to smoke inside the building, except in the transcript office, said University Registrar Randall Dahl.

The policy development is initiated at the office, department or building level, he said. He sends them the policy implemented by the Albert B. Chandler Medical Center and other policies used at businesses throughout the country.

Other places where a policy has been implemented are the pharmacy, biological sciences, nursing and employment buildings. Also, the Seaton Center and the Harry C. Lancaster Aquatics Center have restricted smoking policies.

In 1975, the University Senate passed a resolution calling for a no-smoking policy in classrooms.

Williamson also said smoking policies have been adopted in the Patterson Office Tower on a office by office, floor-by-floor basis.

"It appears that there are becoming more areas in which there are smoking policies," he said.

And he expects the move to continue.

"It appears that we are going to continue to have more smoking policies," Williamson said.

However, if the University ever went to a no-smoking policy, Williamson said it would be *de facto* and not *de jure*.

Since the U of L situation and trends in businesses to restrict smoking have evolved, the state legislature acted in the 1990 session to protect the crop.

In Kentucky, not only are businesses prevented from discriminating against an individual's "race, color, religion, national origin" and "sex," but in this tobacco state, businesses cannot discriminate

against a smoker as long as he or she complies with workplace policies.

"It's an unusual law, but Kentucky's a tobacco state," Williamson said.

He said he gets about one call regarding smoking every three weeks. Fortunately for UK, the other end of the phone has never been Frankfort, Ky.

"I've never had a discussion with anybody from the legislature about the issue," he said.

Although smoking is becoming more and more restricted on campus, Williamson has an alternative use for boardroom ashtrays — as coasters for colas.

State's reliance on tobacco pits farmers against health profession

By DALE GREER
Managing Editor

An estimated 70,000 Kentucky farmers are caught in the middle of a battle whose stakes could be as high as life and death.

The battle is over tobacco, and it has reached unprecedented proportions in the last decade.

Smoking once was considered an acceptable social activity, but many now view it as an unardonable social sin. It has been banned in countless public places, including UK's Albert B. Chandler Medical Center, to eliminate possible health risks from passive smoking.

Mounting evidence points to a direct link between smoking and lung cancer, and Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan has said the habit costs the country \$52 billion a year in health-care and insurance fees.

This, combined with rising federal and state excise taxes, has caused domestic tobacco use to drop 17 percent since 1981, according to a General Accounting Office report to Congress.

The decline in domestic consumption may be good news to Surgeon General Antonia Novello, who is pushing for a "smokeless society" by the year 2000. But it could be hazardous to the health of Kentucky's 70,000 burley growers and economy.

The farm value of Kentucky tobacco averages about \$750 to 800 million per year, said Milton Shuffett, an agricultural economist in the

UK College of Agriculture.

In addition to being the state's No. 1 cash crop, it also is highly profitable, contributing significantly to the state's economy.

"We use about 2 percent of our crop land for tobacco, and we get about 25 percent of our farm income from tobacco," Shuffett said.

"If you took tobacco out of Kentucky, it would be a very bleak future — there's not any crop to replace it with in terms of income."

Despite the decline in domestic use, Shuffett said he expects tobacco demand to remain stable through the end of the century because of the booming export market for loose-leaf and manufactured tobacco products.

"There's been a shift toward a blended-type cigarette. You have to have burley tobacco to do that. Other countries in the world are producing burley, but its not as good a quality as ours, so there's been a good market for U.S. tobacco."

"It looks like this year, we will make about as many cigarettes as we've ever made because we're going to export close to 200 billion cigarettes."

Shuffett said that number is up from about 80 billion a decade ago.

The export market is so strong, in fact, that tobacco exports helped ease the U.S. trade deficit last year and boost the national economy, said Thomas Lauria, spokesman for the Tobacco Institute in Washington.

Last year, tobacco amounted to 55 percent of the improvement in \$55 percent of the balance of trade deficit," Lauria

said. "The country as a whole is still running a terrible deficit, but without tobacco, it would be even worse."

The foreign demand for U.S. tobacco is so strong that American farmers can't grow enough, said Danny McKinney, chief executive officer for the Burley Tobacco Growers Co-operative Association in Lexington.

McKinney said the trend will continue.

"We'll be growing tobacco for the rest of my and your life," he said.

State Rep. Anne Northup, however, isn't so sure. Northup (R-Louisville) said it is only a matter of time before foreign countries begin growing tobacco as good as American leaf — and at a much lower cost.

This could have a disastrous effect on the state's economy.

Northup, however, says the current boom in exports provides a limited "window of opportunity" to take tobacco profits and invest them in developing supplemental crops such as fruits and vegetables.

"I hope that Kentucky farmers grow every pound of tobacco they can sell as long as they can sell it, but I believe this is clearly a window with a death date on it," Northup said. "The window will close."

Northup has proposed a bill for the 1992 General Assembly that would help wean Kentucky tobacco farmers and the state economy from its tobacco dependency.

The bill proposes a 3-cent-per-pound tax on tobacco, with pro-

ceeds going to develop supplemental crops.

Shuffett said Northup's proposal is "admirable in that it seeks to supplement tobacco. But to replace tobacco — we just don't have any replacement for it."

Alternatives to tobacco, like soybeans, require much more land to grow, Shuffett said, and don't produce as high a profit. Fruit and vegetable crops, while potentially profitable, lack developed local markets that could handle a large-scale influx of produce. This would glut the market, driving down revenue, he said.

Northup's bill, however, also proposes using some of the tax revenue to attract food processing plants like canneries to Kentucky. This would produce a local market that could handle the crops and decrease the state's dependency on tobacco, Northup said.

A move in this direction may be the only way to ensure the viability of many farmers, she said.

John Banzhaf, however, says he has no pity for Kentucky's tobacco farmers.

"I don't have a great deal of sympathy for somebody who, now 25 years after the Surgeon General's report on the dangers of smoking, is producing a product which ... kills hundreds of thousands of people a year but says, 'That's how I make my money,'" said Banzhaf, executive director of Action on Smoking and Health in Washington.

Banzhaf said the health-care costs related to smoking, nationwide, far



STEPHANE PORTER/Kernal Contributor

Dr. Barbara Phillips, chairwoman of Tobacco-Free Young Kentuckians, said the U.S. is "exporting death" when it sells tobacco abroad.

outripe any economic benefit gained from its sale.

Here in Kentucky, tobacco-related health care cost about \$270

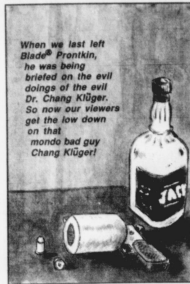
million in 1983 alone, said Dr. Barbara Phillips, chairwoman of Tobacco-Free Young Kentuckians.

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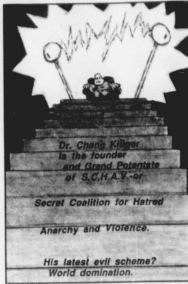


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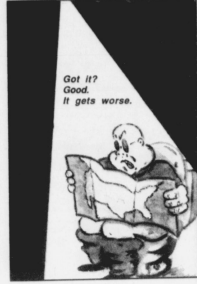
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Hearing set for HIV-positive dental grad

Staff reports

The Georgia Dental Board set a new date for the hearing over allegations that at a UK dental school alumnus may be infected with the AIDS virus.

The hearing, originally scheduled for Tuesday, was rescheduled for Sept. 23, to allow more time for investigators to look at the case of Dr. Ronald Marasco.

Marasco, a recent UK dental school graduate, had his Georgia Dental license suspended last July on grounds that he was HIV-positive and had experienced two periods of mental dysfunction while treating patients during the last nine months.

In a petition for reinstatement of his license, Marasco filed a document stating that his status of HIV-positive or negative is irrelevant,

and the board does not have the authority to suspend his license for such a reason.

He did admit to having bouts of mental dysfunction because of encephalitis, which required hospitalization. The board has addressed Marasco's claims that they have no grounds for suspension.

"If a dentist displays incapability to perform his duties or puts his patients in danger by reason of illness, the board does have the authority to take action," said Dr. Rick Meadows, executive director with the

Georgia Board of Dentistry.

UK has offered AIDS tests to the 49 patients Marasco treated while he was a dental student at UK.

All but six of the patients have tested negative for the HIV virus. Four of them declined testing. One other patient has not been located yet, and the last patient wants to be tested but has yet to schedule a test, according to UK officials.

Marasco practiced in Pembroke, a suburb of Savannah, Ga. The Savannah Health Department has offered HIV screenings to all his patients.

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Tobacco

Continued from page 6

co-Free Young Kentuckians, a coalition of health agencies such as the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and the American Lung Association.

Phillips, a physician at UK Hospital, cited a study conducted in 1983 for the state Health and Human Resources Cabinet, which found 8 percent of all direct medical care could be attributed to cigarette smoking.

In light of these health-care costs, Phillips said U.S. government policy "doesn't make much sense" because the Department of Agriculture continues to operate a tobacco price-support program to guarantee the crop's profitability.

"It's ludicrous, in fact grotesque, for the federal government to be involved in a tobacco price-support program on the one hand, but on the other hand shell out money to try and restrict, educate and control tobacco use," she said.

"I think a lot of things in our country are done for economic reasons rather than moral or health reasons. But I can tell you that most of the individual smokers that I have cared for, that are coughing up blood and are struggling to draw every single breath, certainly don't value money over health."

Phillips also said the profit-driven export of American tobacco is worse than the flow of Latin American drugs into the United States.

"It will be a long time before Colombian cocaine kills as many Americans as American tobacco has killed Colombians," Phillips said.

But Laura, of the Tobacco Institute, said there is "an odd double standard" that applies to Phillips' analysis of tobacco exports.

"Why is it that people in other countries are suddenly victims if they smoke American tobacco, but if they smoke Indian or Egyptian or Brazilian tobacco, we just overlook the fact that they are adult consumers of a product they enjoy?"

He also disputed the studies that have established a dollar figure for tobacco-related health care and said that no direct link between tobacco use and disease has been proved.

"The health care costs cannot be clearly traced solely to tobacco because things are just too complicated," Laura said. "Are you a couch potato, where do you live, how much red meat do you eat? You cannot put a dollar figure on tobacco consumption."

Laura said there is nothing immoral about the sale of tobacco because it is legal "on every square inch of the planet" and because "God allows it to grow."

The sale of tobacco is nothing more than simple economics, he said.

Shuffett agrees: "There are some health concerns about tobacco, but as long as people are going to use tobacco, and we've got 50 million people in this country that smoke tobacco, somebody's going to make cigarettes and somebody's going to smoke them."

"U.S. tobacco is not any more harmful than Brazilian tobacco or somebody else's tobacco. If there's a market, somebody is going to supply this market."

"There are those people who say we are exporting death. But, either we do it or somebody else does it. To say that Kentucky farmers should quit growing tobacco so that we'll be more healthy — it just don't make sense to me."

Information for this story also was gathered by The Associated Press.

September 19, 1991
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

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