

Kentucky has the highest smoking rate in the country and the second highest prevalence of pregnant women who smoke. Fletcher said the state will continue programs that encourage state workers to quit smoking. He said the state has a toll-free quitline. But state workers Morganti and Lingle intend to keep on puffing.

"I'm addicted; It keeps me calm," Morganti said.

"It's like a pacifier," Lingle added.

Through a child's eyes - Mural introduces students to other cultures

Writer: Emily Yahr

7/12/2006 [Lexington Herald-Leader](#)

Southern Elementary School in Georgetown will have about 75 new children in the hallways this fall -- some flying kites in the air. These are only a few images in a new mural that adorns the school's rotunda entrance. The project, which cost more than \$100,000, was designed by Bryan Blankenship.

Blankenship said the district has won awards for being a part of the International Alliance for Invitational Education, which promotes cultural exchange.

"We wanted something that would create a lasting impression and would be there a long, long time," said district Superintendent Bryan Blankenship.

The mural, an 8-by-135-foot canvas painting, is now the first thing people see when they walk through the door, said Blankenship.

Lexington artist Mike Burrell of Flying Armadillo Signs took almost a year to research and complete the painting with the help of a team of artists.

The colorful piece has pictures of children and animals from numerous countries. Scenes include the Eiffel Tower in France, the Great Wall of China and the pyramids of Egypt.

The idea for the mural came after two years of remodeling at the school, which left a plain white rotunda at the entrance.

"We want our students to be accepting of other ways of life, and the best way to do that is to learn about them," Blankenship said.

UK: Spindletop Hall's future a matter of economics - SPOKESMAN SAYS SCHOOL CAN'T AFFORD TO SUBSIDIZE CLUB

Writer: Linda B. Blackford

7/12/2006 [Lexington Herald-Leader](#)

The proposal to turn Spindletop Hall and Club into a retirement community was announced quietly, plans put into a one-year study. But judging from the raised voices, boos, standing ovations and passionate opposition voiced at a packed meeting at Spindletop Hall, the idea is far from settled.

Members quizzed and challenged UK officials over plans to build a continuous care community around Spindletop Hall, the University of Kentucky's oldest and largest retirement community.

"This is a lose-lose endeavor," Maner Ferguson, a club member for the past 30 years, said to applause. "UK would lose its identity and the club would lose its members."

UK spokesman Jay Blanton said the issue came down to economics: The club has lost 1,000 members in the past decade and the cost of maintaining the property is rising.

The retirement community developer would spend \$9 million to \$12 million to renovate and restore the mansion. The club would then be able to charge more for membership.

"Spindletop is a treasure and we want it to remain so, but UK cannot justify or afford in the long term to subsidize a private retirement community," Ferguson said.

Ferguson pointed out that Spindletop would need only 450 more members to be able to pay its own way. Members also could be priced in the \$300,000-\$400,000 range.

A Florida retirement community developer called Praxeis won the bid to create a retirement community for UK. Currently, the club is a private retirement community.

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The new complex would take up about 94 acres; UK officials say the developer would recreate the club's pools and tennis courts. Construction could start in 2008 and be finished in 18 months to two years.

Originally, the retirement community was supposed to be built at Coldstream Research Park, but that was deemed unworkable because of the high cost of land.

Member Tim Lambert said he had looked into 20 other university-affiliated retirement communities around the country, and that the Sanders Brown Center on Aging has not been consulted about this," he said.

Blanton said UK President Lee Todd had informed the center about the plan. That's when Cheryl Feigel, a Sanders Brown Center on Aging spokeswoman, said she had been consulted.

"This information was presented to the board today for the very first time," she announced to loud applause.

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Gates Sr. Speaks to College Fund Raisers on Philanthropy, the Buffett Gift, and the Estate Tax

Writer: ERIN STROUT

7/12/2006 [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

William H. Gates Sr., the father of the wealthiest man in the world and a co-chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, spoke to college fund raisers at the University of Kentucky on Saturday. Mr. Gates, who is a co-author of *Wealth and Our Commonwealth: Why America Should Tax Accumulated Fortunes* (Beacon Press), said he was pleased that legislators push to have it repealed permanently, "the perfect tax" because "it's society collecting back what it's given to it."

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