

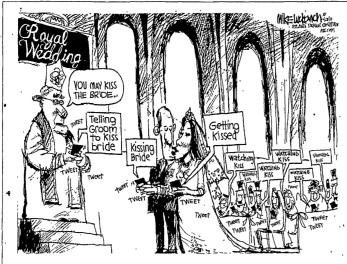
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ASHTON PHELPS JR., Publisher

· . B-4 SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011 THE TIMES PICAYUNE ·----\_\_\_\_\_

## The Times-Picayune

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#### YOUR OPINIONS

### Governor is squeezing the life out of UNO

(14) -		
<sup>1011</sup> <sup>104</sup> At the end of my career at the University of New Orleans I dis- cover that I have been teaching at a "failed school." This will be netwis to the teachers and profes- softs and physicians and accoun- tants and engineers I have tangth there. Gox Bobby Jindal's shrewd and cynical re-branding of UNO to geapegoat his tax cuts for the weathy and his TOPS welfare for the rich will play famously with his base. Jindal did his unifergraduate work at an Ivy League school with a \$22 bil- lion endowment. Likely the six-year graduation rate there was 98 percent. Not one of the students who transfer to UNO	six-year graduation rate. The Times-Picayune reports that in the Southern region Ken- tucky, over the past two years, spent the most per college su- dent — \$10,301. Louisiana spent the least, \$9,865. Kentucky has, by my count, eight fou-year col- legess — about half the number in Louisiana. Both states have roughly the same population. Bobby Jindal is supposed to be a genius, so why can't he do the math? If he halves the number of state colleges, will the state then spend \$4,900 per stu- dent, a third of what Kentucky spends? In the last quarter-century higher education in Louisiana	starting salary, with a bachelor's degree, in the Orleans Parish schools. And the governor wants to pay private insurance companies a profit to run the Office of Group Benefits, whose administrative costs are now only 3.2 percent. The custodial staff at UNO has been cut 60 percent in the past 25 years. Faculty members are now sweeping and emptying trash in many classrooms, and students are volunteering to clean buildings. I can't imagine a more dedicated, throw the nore officient and the staff at UNO. They work in conditions and for pay that would drive
from Delgado, Southern Univer- sity at New Orleans, Louisiana	has scrabbled for rinds. The median salary (half above, half	most American professors out of the profession.
	below ) in my department, the	· Kris Lackey
State University and many other		
schools from around the nation	largest at UNO, last year was	New Orleans
counts toward UNO's "nitiful"	\$20 0000 That is \$1 012 holow the	



**OUR OPINIONS** More scrutiny for police details

Interfect both citizity for police decorder flow in the subset of the superintendent, did off-duty superintendent is an arrangement that allowed off-duty police officers to get paid for reviewing traffic camera tickets shows how "deeply embedded" problems with off duty details are within the New Orleans.
If find it troubling and commit to the public to make it right," the mayor said.
Mayor Landrieu reiterated that an orthan ago he directed Police Superintendent and ango he directed Police Superintendent Serpas to come up with a plan by May 15 to completely revamp the detail system. That overhaul is urgently need ed and will prove a key to reforming the department.
The Justice Department in a review last system hasn't been limited to private security work. The traffic ticket reviews were being done for the city.
That approach began under former Police Superintendent Marren Riley, who was concerned that the task would distration on-duty officers from more important work, sys he shared.
Last fall, Anytime Solutions, a company that was formed in part by Police Commander Edwin Hosli, began handling the

# Strong case for ending tolls

Crescent City Connection tolls will expire at the end of 2012 unless the Legisla-ture renews them, but a Bureau of Govern-mental Research report on bridge finances should be required reading for lawmakers. That report, along with audits that have found instances of questionable spending, make it clear that Crescent City Connection users have been paying for a lot of things of little or no benefit to them. The BGR says that the \$1 tolls, which have been in place since 1989, should be allowed to lapse, and the watchdog group makes a strong case for doing so. West Bank lawmakers and business leaders, who have been working to form at ask force group that will make a recom-mendation on this issue, should find the report enlightening. The tolls are collected from east-bank-bound motorists, but only 19 percent of that revenue is actually spent to police and main tain the bridge. Nearly as much, 16 percent is spent on toll collection and associated administrative costs. The bulk of the money is spent on what

WRITE Letters to the Editor 3000 Howard Ave. New Orleans, LA 70125 WRITE Tetras @timespicayune.com FAX 503.826.3369 Letters should be brief and to the four, preferably 200 words or less, four editors and the brief and to the four preferably 200 words or less, four editors and the brief and to the four preferably 200 words or less, four editors and the brief and to the four preferably 200 words or less, four editors and the brief and to the four preferably 200 words or less, full fers from the same writer are not subject line letters should bear the subject line letter to the editor. Do not send a letter as an e-mail attachment subject line letters to words bear the full for be returned; submissions become the proprior of The Times - Pleayune by published or otherwise reused in any medium.	Points for the letter writer on her observations on the "not recycling gumbo, and we would like to add some more thoughts to that stew. Why is it voluntary and not mandatory like trash pickup and severage? Why black containers instead of some color that would stand oit, say green? Why no <b>Schouldn't ride to</b> After a recent heart attack and subsequent response by three New Orleans firefighters, I was taken to the emergency room at Towo Infirmary by two very professional E.M.S. work- ers. A m onth later I nearly bad another attack two grand for the ride. W	cal facilities (that would make a huge impact)? Why not use Phoenix Recy- eling, which already has the lay of the land? And, here's the big one, how come Target stores will recycle our glass and the city cannot? It's time to think outside the trash box, Mitch. <b>Philipe LaMancusa</b> <b>Debble Lindsey</b> New Orleans <b>Debble Lindsey</b> New Orleans <b>Debble Lindsey</b> New Orleans <b>Department?</b> Why shouldn't they get a bonus for being the real first-responders? <b>William Bowman</b> New Orleans	tain the bridge. Nearly as much, 16 percent, is spent on toll collection and associated administrative costs. The bulk of the money is spent on what the BGR describes as "far-flung" services, including three Mississippi River ferries, which swallow up the largest portion of toll revenues — 32 percent. Only 9 percent is used to pay off the bonds that paid for the second span, the ostensible reason to charge tolls in the first place. That debt will be retired two months before the tolls expire on Dec. 31, 2012. "Drivers on the Crescent City Connec- tion should not be required to subsidize fer- ry riders and to pay for construction proj- ects far afield," the BGR said. "Nor should they be the only bridge users in the state who must pay to get from one side of the Mississippi River to the other." Indeed, it wouldn't be fair to continue	opment evaluate increases in ferry fares or outs in service but urged the agency to do so on a statewide basis, taking into account factors like ridership and cost per passen- ger. That would be the fair approach. Cur- rently, the state funds six other ferries out of the Transportation Trust Fund. Gov. Bobby Jindal has said that his administration will remain neutral on whether to extend the tolls or allow them to lapse. But state transportation officials are working with a consultant to scale back operations in case the tolls are not renewed. That's a prudent step, because a toll renew- al really can't be justified. "CCC tolls fail to meet the basic test of a user fee — that it primarily pays for the service used by those who pay it," the BGR said. "Leaning on one region to cover costs via tolls, while sparing others the cost, is not an equitable approach."		
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