



WEATHER Partly sunny today, high near 75; mostly cloudy tonight, low 45-50; partly sunny tomorrow, high near 65 to 70.

SPORTS Mark Pope and Andre Riddick will have to contain Arizona State's Mario Bennett tomorrow night. Story, page 2.



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INDEPENDENT SINCE 1971

Presidential candidates debate at Newman

By Sara Spears
Senior Staff Writer

Student Government Association presidential and vice-presidential candidates had the opportunity to answer students' questions last night at the Newman Center's Second Annual Political Issues Forum.

About 75 students attended the forum to voice their opinions and ask the candidates questions.

Issues discussed included parking, capping tuition, senate spending criteria for certain bills and campus safety.

The major issue discussed was how candidates plan to make SGA officials more accountable. Most candidates agreed that mandatory

roll call voting in Senate meetings would help to eliminate the problem.

Presidential candidate Russell Harper had already begun to eliminate the accountability problem.

"As a current senator at large, I plan to present a constitutional amendment at the next Senate meeting that would require mandatory roll call voting on every bill that goes through the Senate," Harper said.

Harper said, if elected, he also plans to hire a court reporter for the Senate meetings.

"This would mean that every word in the Senate meetings would be recorded, and no one could go back on what they had

said or supported."

Presidential candidate Dan Michalak said that he would hold SGA accountable for their actions by holding a weekly "State of the Students" address.

"This would allow students access to the actions in SGA on a weekly basis," Michalak said. "We would also be sure to speak in plain English so that all students can understand, not this SGA talk."

The most interesting questions presented to the candidates concerned what they considered their greatest character flaw and what they do to overcome it on a daily basis.

"My greatest character flaw would have to be the fact that I'm

overcommitted to everything I do," said presidential candidate Tony Carata.

"I tend to go after everything I want and sometimes that is just too much to handle."

Another concern of the students was what the candidates planned to do about environmental issues on campus, and how they would go about making UK's campus an ecologically safe place to learn.

"We have a plan to do an environmental audit of our campus and possibly set up an Environmental Quality Control Commission that would deal with environmental issues across the entire campus, not just at the Student Center or in the residence halls,"

said Amy Abernathy, vice-presidential candidate, who is running with Avi Weitzman.

"This committee would also focus on other ways to solve environmental problems besides just recycling."

When asked what the candidates would do to prove they were still dedicated to students on the event that they lose in the election, candidates agreed that they would remain active on campus whether it be in SGA or some other way.

"I've been involved in SGA for so long now I couldn't imagine not being a part of it or representing the students in some way," said Shea Chaney, presidential candidate.

"Since I am a law student, I would be more than likely put my application in to be on the judicial board because I feel like I am fair person and would be fair to the students."

Todd Benson, another presidential candidate, said that if he doesn't win the election he would apply for another position in SGA as well.

"I would definitely apply for one of the executive positions simply because I want to serve the students and I know that I am damn qualified," Benson said. SGA elections will be held next Wednesday and Thursday. Next up for the candidates is the Greek Political Action Committee debate tomorrow night.

Candidate 'Eck' Rose to visit UK

Staff report

Democratic candidate for Governor John "Eck" Rose, will be featured at a noon forum in the UK College of Law courtroom today.

Rose, state Senate majority leader from Winchester, was the last of eight candidates to declare their candidacy when he filed to run just hours before the deadline Jan. 31.

Trey Grayson, Student Bar Association Noon Forum Committee chairman, said Monday he isn't sure what topic Rose will talk about.

Rose was campaigning throughout the state yesterday and could not be reached for comment. Campaign spokeswoman Paula Sauer said she did not know anything specific Rose had planned for his speech.

Rose has served in the Senate for 17 years and has worked heavily on such things as worker's compensation and education reform. At a candidate forum in Lexington last month, Rose said he wanted to be a part of a growing unity between local, state and federal governments.

The audience is usually allowed a question and answer period following the candidate's remarks.

Democratic candidates Gatewood Galbraith, Secretary of State Bob Babbage and Lieutenant Governor Paul Patton have already spoken as a part of the lecture series.

The candidates have focused so far on issues like health care reform, school prayer and marijuana legalization.

SBA officials also have announced that Republican candidate Larry Forgy will speak at the forum April 5.

Golf, not politics, is what makes Michalak tick

By Ty Halpin
Assistant Managing Editor

Politics is decisively not Dan Michalak's game of choice. A combination of golf and marketing is more his style. The candidate for Student Government Association president works at Tanglewood Golf Course in Taylorsville, Ky.

More impressively, Michalak started and operated a yearly chip and putt golf tournament in two acres of his backyard, which he named the Petunia Classic Country Club.

As a sophomore in high school in Bay City, Mich., Michalak started the tournament as a means to get some friends together.

"I started it almost as a joke," he said, adding that newspapers and even television stations covered the yearly tournament. "It went over so well, that I couldn't stop it."

When it stopped, Michalak had raised more than \$2,000 for a scholarship program in his high school and had started a community event with 130 golfers in the last year of its existence.

"Whenever I go home, people ask me when I'm going to start the tournament again," he said. "It's something I'd like to continue."

The tournament also served as the beginning of

the management and marketing senior's career. He printed and sold everything from T-shirts to golf tees.

"Anything you could put a logo on, we sold," he said.

Michalak, himself an eight-handicap golfer, wants the game to remain in his life forever.

"I'm looking forward to getting (my handicap) down to a five this summer," he said. "I'd like to retire on my own golf course some day."

For now, Michalak will have to settle for working at a golf course. But, he can thank UK for landing him the internship and eventual job at Tanglewood. His boss is a UK alumnus.

That experience gave Michalak the idea for one of his main platform planks — establishing a network between students and alumni that would help students land jobs and internships.

"The networks are there across the country, they're not being used to the full potential," he said.

Michalak, who says key administrators are already in support of the idea, wants UK to focus more on putting qualified and experienced students in the workforce.

"This would give students opportunities to get real-life experience," he said.

Michalak has other real-life experiences that he

holds extremely important. He has taught Sunday School at the Newman Center since coming to UK in addition to other community services.

"It sounds tacky when you call it community service, but that's really what it is," Michalak said, including a trademark chuckle. "I love helping people."

His involvement in SGA began last year when, almost transparently, Michalak sat and observed people in Senate meetings.

At first, it was simple curiosity. But soon, something clicked in his head. His curiosity metamorphosed to involvement, which has propelled him in the race for SGA's top seat.

"They all knew me as the little redhead who was at all the Senate meetings," Michalak said, referring to last year's Senate members. "I just watched and listened and realized that I could make a difference."

But, the biggest difference in Michalak's last four years was his decision to attend UK.

"I was all but set to go to the University of Michigan," Michalak said. "I visited campus two months before school started and everyone was like, 'How are you?'"

"Everyone smiled. No one was mean. I knew it was the place for me because everyone was so friendly."



On the outside looking in

Mackie Rhoads of Economy Glass in Lexington works on re-sealing the windows in the Chemistry-Physics Building yesterday. The work will probably take all week.

NEWSbytes

NATION Welfare battle shapes up in the House

WASHINGTON — Promising to break the chains of a welfare system that has "enslaved" millions of poor Americans, Republicans took the centerpiece of their social agenda to the House floor yesterday. Democrats invoked the Holocaust, denouncing welfare overhaul as "downright low down."

The GOP's bill repeals dozens of anti-poverty programs and sends the money to the states in lump sum payments, shrinks spending by \$6.4 billion, and erases the federal government's New Deal guarantee of support for single mothers and their children. Food stamps, school lunches, foster care and aid to disabled children would be changed under the blueprint as states are given a free hand to design their own welfare programs. Democrats attacked the legislation as a coldhearted and mean-spirited attack on children. Tempers quickly rose as the debate, which could continue all week, got under way.

WORLD Tokyo police stage raid

TOKYO — Police in gas masks and protective clothing raided the offices of a secretive religious group yesterday, two days after a nerve-gas attack on Tokyo's subway system killed eight people.

Police faced little resistance as they started to enter the Aum Shinri Kyo's five-story building at about 6:15 a.m. in a quiet, partly commercial neighborhood of Tokyo. Some of those inside the building attempted to push police back.

It wasn't immediately clear how the raid was related to the subway terror. The group, previously accused of making the type of gas used in the attack Monday, has denied involvement. Police launched the raid as part of an investigation into the abduction of a public official last month.

NAMEdropping

Public Enemy sidekick sidetracked

NEW YORK — Flavor Flav has been convicted of possessing a weapon after firing a gun at a neighbor in 1993. The 36-year-old rapper, whose real name is William Drayton, originally was charged with attempted murder, but the charges were reduced.

Drayton, of the group Public Enemy, was convicted of fourth-degree weapon possession, a misdemeanor. He faces up to one year in jail when he is sentenced May 18.

Police said Drayton had been arguing with his 54-year-old neighbor over the rapper's girlfriend. Compiled from wire reports.



Flav

Coffee Talk

a six-part look at the people behind the platforms



Michalak/Stone Campaign Highlights

- ▼ Improve student employment opportunities through development of a UK Alumni-Student Alliance.
- ▼ Publish a comprehensive catalog of financial aid scholarships and loans available to UK students.
- ▼ Create a Legal Rights Guide for students ranging from landlord/tenant issues to DUI's.
- ▼ Place a student representative on the Fayette Urban County Downtown Revitalization Committee.
- ▼ Work for more student involvement in faculty tenure cases.
- ▼ Request a paved Virginia Avenue parking lot, a traffic light at Greg Page Apartments and more basketball courts for students at the Seaton Center.

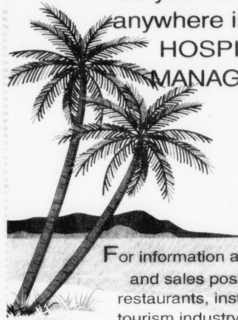


Michalak

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SPORTS

Pitino says UK is no Goliath

By Brett Dawson
Sports Editor

If UK coach Rick Pitino has his way, Arizona State will leave its slingshot at home when the Sun Devils face his Wildcats in the Southeast Regional semifinal in Birmingham tomorrow.

Pitino, you see, doesn't quite buy into the whole David vs. Goliath scenario when it comes to Arizona State (24-8) vs. UK (27-4).

Even if Bill Frieder is trying to make it come across that way.

The Arizona State coach has been touting his team as the underwhelming favorite to lose tomorrow night's game against the Cats.

"I guess he would like to look at it that way," Pitino said. "If he would like to make a trade, give us Mario Bennett and we'll give him one of our big men for this game, to maybe equal things out for them since they're such a David, we'll do that."

On Bennett's shoulders rest the bulk of ASU's hopes for upsetting UK. The 6-foot-9-inch forward/center, who takes up 230 pounds worth of space in the low post, could make UK centers Mark Pope and Andre Riddick look like a pair of Davids themselves.

It won't be Pope's first meeting with Bennett, but the last time the two faced off — Pope's freshman year at the University of Washington — Bennett was nowhere near the player he is now.

A year off in 1992-93 due to a medical redshirt gave Bennett time to add bulk and strength.

"He's gotten a lot stronger," Pope said. "He's really taken his

game to another level. He's a superstar, and he's going to give us all kinds of problems."

Those problems could include not only Bennett's low-post scoring ability, but also his talent for passing out of the double-team to create open shots for his teammates on the perimeter.

Arizona State floats four men around the three-point arch with Bennett in the middle, Pitino said, not unlike Mississippi State, a team that knocked off UK in Rupp Arena during the regular season.

But Pitino rejected heavy comparisons between the two teams, noting the difference in the two teams' overall styles. Arizona State is more apt to run with the Cats, Pitino said.

And the Sun Devils are not, Pitino reiterated, heavy underdogs.

If they were, he said, his team might lose some advantages — at least if the NCAA's first- and second-round form holds true.

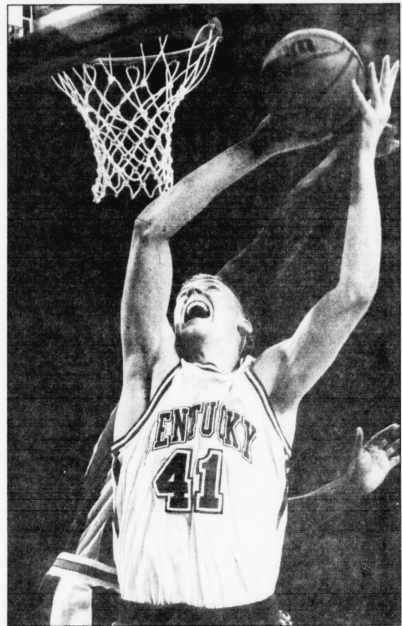
"The underdog in the first two rounds has a tremendous psychological and emotional advantage, because they realize if they don't play their best game, ... they can't win," Pitino said. "Whereas the favorite says, we've just got to maintain what we're doing to win."

"We've taken the attitude of the underdog in both games, even though it's obviously not true — we're the number one seed."

And the prohibitive favorites tomorrow night?

Not according to Pitino.

"Bill can feed all that malarkey to those people out in the valley of the sun, because the sun's out quite a bit," Pitino said. "But he can't fool the people in Kentucky."



A HANDFUL UK's Mark Pope will have a tough task in trying to contain Arizona State's Mario Bennett when the two teams meet tomorrow.

Rifle team finishes successful season with a bang

By Shannon Henry
Staff Writer

As March Madness gets into high gear, the UK men's basketball team is not the only group of Wildcats ranked among the nation's best.

For the second consecutive year, the UK rifle team placed third in the NCAA Shooting Championships, which were held March 3-4 in Annapolis, Md.

The rifle team from West Virginia University placed first in the

overall competition, while the Air Force team finished second.

Before the tournament, UK was ranked fourth nationally overall. The Wildcats' strong spot this season was the air rifle competition. They won their past four competitions in that event leading up to the national championship.

At NCAA Sectionals, UK set a new school record in air rifle and smallbore with a score of 6,193.

During the national championships, junior Nancy Napolski set a new UK record and tied the

NCAA record for air rifle shooting in the team day competition. She received a score of 395.

"We all worked very hard," Napolski said. "And it really paid off for me."

However, in the individual round of the competition Napolski, who won the air rifle event last year, finished ninth. UK sophomore Erik Anderson finished second in the event. Another UK sophomore Mike Boggs finished highest among the Wildcats with a ninth place finish in smallbore.

In the team competition UK finished third in the air rifle, an event it placed first in last year, and fourth in the smallbore event.

"The fact that we placed third two years in a row shows that we are always in contention for a national title," Coach Harry Mullins said. "We will focus on team work, not the individual, in the off-season and next year in practice," he said. "Then with the good freshman class that's coming in, we have a legitimate shot at a 1996 national title."

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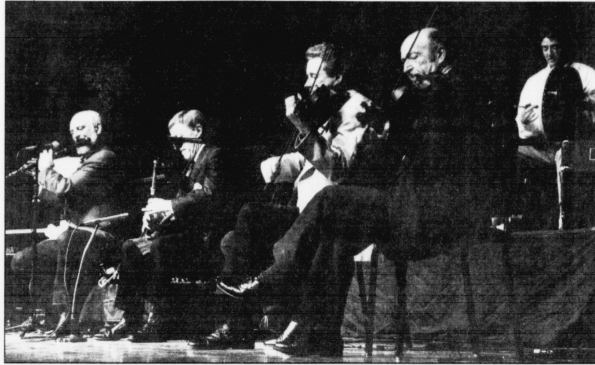
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JAMES CRISP, Kernel staff

The sounds o' the Irish

The Chieftains, known and loved all over the world for their traditional Irish music, played to a sold out audience last night at the Onis A. Singlerary Center for the Arts. The band incorporated dancing, antix and country hits into the act.

WHAT'S your sign?

By John Abbott

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Save your nasal secretions in a jar and carry it with you at all times. If anybody asks you for a favor, whip out the jar and say, "Hey, snot a problem!"

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Kill the Skitless children. Find the little miscreants in those irritating commercials and execute them in the slowest and most painful manner possible (I can give you suggestions if you're stuck for ideas.) Don't screw this up like the Mariah Carey assassination.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Using a magic scroll you find a bag of Cheetos, you travel back in time and add some extra Commandments to the Bible. Commandment 11a: Geminis must be revered like the geniuses they are. Commandment 11b: Pisces should get their asses kicked with regularity. Commandment 11c: Everybody rhumba!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) The date is going well, you stand a good chance of scoring, but in the middle of it you decide, against the better judgment of

your friends, to impress your companion by showing off your collection of frozen human body parts. Your companion decides you are a real looney and refuses to speak to you ever again.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) As you sit down for the big job interview, you realize that you failed to remove that temporary swastika tattoo on your cheek. Too late: the interviewer is named Goldberg, and he's pissed. You are not hired.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Angry at the world? Wanna make someone hurt? Grab a billy club and beat a deserving Virgo soundly. Pisces, I mean. Yeah, beat a deserving Pisces soundly. Sorry, old habits die hard.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Absolutely nothing happens to you this week.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) You feel the plight of innocent cows and pigs which are slaughtered every day and decide to go vegetarian. Then you feel the plight of innocent potatoes and spinach slaughtered every day, and decide that, in all fairness, you must stop eating completely.

You eventually starve to death. **Sagittarius** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Your fairy godmother gives you a magic pouch that can dispense unlimited quantities of Brussels sprouts and lima beans. Boy, does your fairy godmother suck. Mine gave me a chain saw.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) You start playing around with an automatic rifle and accidentally mow down twenty people. Fortunately, all twenty of your victims were real jerks, so no one will testify to your guilt, and you get away with it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) In a desperate cry for attention, you slit both your wrists and run screaming through the halls. No one seems especially concerned. Only two people even talk to you; one asks you to stop screaming because he's trying to study, and the other tells you to stop bleeding all over the carpet.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Go on, skimp on the personal hygiene. You're so hideously unattractive and creepy it doesn't really matter if you forget to take a shower or brush your teeth; people will avoid you either way.

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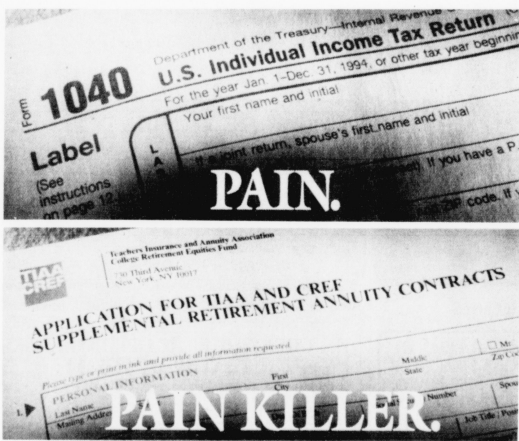


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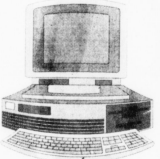
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KENNEDY BOOK STORE

Page & Plant: Reborn

By Trent Knuckles
 Editorial Editor

When the lights went down, the joints lit up.

Jimmy Page and Robert Plant, after a 30-minute warmup by opening band Rusted Root (who were surprisingly impressive), hit the stage in Rupp Arena Monday, in support of their album *No Quarter*, to prove that they still have what it takes to leave audiences electrified.

Page and Plant's opening definitely wasn't the stuff of a bunch of over-the-hill rock star geezers touring to pay off gambling debts. The music, like a Michael Douglas sex scene, came hard and fast as the legends opened with "The Wanton Song."

The duo, aided by Porl Thompson from the Cure on guitar, ripped on through "Bring it on Home," "Celebration Day" and "Ramble On."

I questioned right off whether Plant could exhibit the same high-strung, drill-bit vocals that made him the rage during the Zeppelin years.

The first champagne glass-

shattering wail of the set proved my reservations unfounded.

Page also exhibited he hasn't lost his golden touch with riff and solos with an expert hand.

Judging by the reaction of the rather large woman next to me (who in the course of moaning "he's so cute" about Plant, and gyrating uncontrollably with the tunes, nearly knocked me down with a meaty left hook), the opening was exceptional.

But Page and Plant didn't merely bring to Lexingtonians straight versions of their old classics.

Instead, a worldbeat tinge (particularly an Egyptian influence) was added to the songs.

The band was complemented by a violin corps, including several musicians from Cairo, Egypt.

The riveting opening was followed by a slower, more melodic interlude with songs like "Nobody's Fault But Mine," "Since I've Been Loving You" and "Gallows Pole." Many fans took a seat to absorb the songs.

Perhaps one of the most interesting points of the evening was a

solo done on an instrument called a hurdy-hurdy which provided an otherworldly sound.

In another surprise, Page and Plant did a rather original version of "Light My Fire." While I am not a big fan of the Doors, the song was an impressive addition to their selection.

With the audience clearly entranced by the performance, Plant then announced, "This is to prove that some things never change."

Everyone seemed pleased with what he had to offer as the band belted out the ever-popular "The Song Remains the Same." At the end of almost an hour and 45 minutes of impassioned music, Page and Plant bid the Lexington audience a polite British farewell.

This didn't seem to sit well at all with the crowd, particularly the large woman next to me who had ingested her lion's share of marijuana and was still swaying with the music (though no one else heard any music but her).

An encore was not just asked for, it was demanded. Fans jumped wildly up and down on their seats and screamed to a fever pitch. The large woman next to me went into an absolute hysteria of approval. "Black Dog" was performed with perfection.

Ending the night, Page and Plant gave a 15-minute long rendition of "Kashmir."

If Page and Plant were out to prove that they still had what it takes to please audiences, they certainly succeeded. But it seems they've done a bit more.

They've added a little spice to their music that offers a pleasing spin on their proven prowess in the past.

It was not simply a redefining of their sound — but rather a rebirth.



WAITING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS Robert Plant (left) proved that he still has the ability to break glass with his scaring voice, while Jimmy Page's (right) guitar riffs ignited the crowd at Monday night's concert.

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CAMPUS

Carota likes being an underdog

By Jennifer Smith
Campus Editor

Declaring themselves "the underdogs" in the upcoming Student Government Association elections, presidential hopeful Tony Carota and his running mate, Andrew Foltz, announced their intentions to solve SGA's problems.

"Can I get anything done? Can I make a difference?" Carota asked 11 of his supporters in the Free Speech Area yesterday.

"Yeah, I can get anything done," Carota said the fact that he has never been involved in SGA and he is not in a fraternity is one of the main reasons people should vote for him.

"I am not in a fraternity and I am not in SGA," Carota said. "I do not belong to any student organization except one and that is the student body. That's who I plan to represent."

He said his impartiality will help him best represent Greeks and students in every organization, not just those in certain interest groups.

Carota said he has extensive experience dealing with administrative officials — like the ones at the restaurant where he works — and he vowed to be a voice for all students. Also, he said he has experience running a meeting.

"In high school, I went through all of that training stuff and I did good, very well," he said. "I do not back down from anything."

"I like being the underdog because I've always been one."



DAVID PARKER Kernel staff

HIGH HOPES SGA presidential hopeful, Tony Carota, told a group of people in the Free Speech area his impartiality makes him the best candidate.

Carota and Foltz's platform includes lowering the minimum amount of money required on meal cards.

However, the amount is established by UK Food Services through the Board of Trustees and is not an SGA mandated amount.

He also proposes a State of the University Address at Memorial Hall in front of the entire Senate and whoever else wants to attend.

He vowed to protect the rights of part-time, non-traditional and commuter students.

Two of the ways he plans to protect all student rights is through published teacher evaluations and by fighting to require teachers to give midterm grades to

students before the last class with drawal date.

Also, Carota said it is important for students, as consumers, to get what they pay for.

"If you miss a test, you should be able to make it up," Carota said.

"After all, you are paying for that test. I want to change University policies on that."

As future vice president, Foltz said his strong point is his ability to solve problems and disputes between groups.

"A lot of times it takes compromises to get things done," Foltz said.

"Cooperation and teamwork is something SGA has not had since T.A. (Jones) left."

Harper parades into elections

By Alison Knight
Staff Writer

White and green balloons were bobbing in the air yesterday afternoon as approximately 50 people marched from the Lambda Chi social fraternity house to the Patterson Office Tower fountain in support of student government presidential ticket Russell Harper and Joe Bennett.

The parade of people capped off Harper's announcement of his intention to run for office with Bennett as his running mate.

Harper, who announced at the Lambda Chi house, emphasized his desire to bring together the student body to form a powerful and effective weapon.

"UK consists of over 70,000 students, collectively," Harper said. "Imagine, if you can get them all unified, you've got to compare it to a gun, with the students as gunpowder. The more active students we have, the more powerful we are."

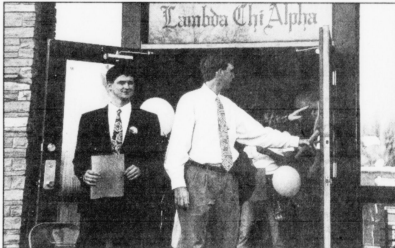
Joe Bennett, Harper's vice presidential candidate, stressed the feasibility of their platform, which he said had realistic goals.

"Our platform is not three miles long, like some other candidates' are," Bennett said. "Everything on this platform is accomplishable."

Harper and Bennett said they have already talked to several administrators about achieving the goals in their platform.

"We met with Chancellor (for the Lexington Campus Robert) Hemenway this morning," Harper said. "He told me (our platform) was one of the best he's ever seen."

Harper said he felt it was



DAVID PARKER Kernel staff

GRAND MARSHAL Russ Harper led a 50-person parade yesterday to kick off his presidential campaign.

important for students to get involved in the election.

"Apathy on this campus is a cancer to our students," he said. "Student government has taken the biggest character assassination because of it."

He thought the duo's UK involvement would be helpful if they were elected. He mentioned his current involvement in SGA as a senator at large and his three-year involvement with the Residence Hall Association, where he was vice president for a year.

Harper said Bennett's involvement as a Lambda Chi member would be helpful in working with the Greek community.

As the parade route ended, Harper emphasized the importance of the size of the campus.

"This campus isn't all that big," he said. "It only takes the right person to bring it together. I am that person."

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Face-off

Welfare has taken center stage in Congress, and the parties involved have agreed on one thing — the system must be changed. The contention is over what changes should be made. Many Republicans are pushing deep cuts in welfare benefits, claiming that the current system fosters unacceptable behavior and dependency on government money. Democrats propose cutting down on fraud, tying work to benefits, etc., but find many of the proposed Republican cuts too harsh. What do you think?

Farewell to welfare?

GOP proposal combines compassion, common sense

Despite all the press about harsh-toned Republicans harping on isolated cases of laziness and fraud within the welfare system, the conservative argument is actually centered on the still-present needs of families welfare was intended to boost back into prosperity and self-reliance. Now that's assuming the intentions were good ones, as history suggests. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), after all, was created in 1935 to temporarily assist widows and orphans. Period.



Matt Felice
Assistant
Editorial Director

But inevitably it evolved into a massive and unapproachable political tool for policy-makers who elevated themselves as the sole protectors of a dependency class their predecessors created and they now sustain.

In her field research on the effects of these policies, Kay Hymowitz, editor for The City Journal, discovered an entire subculture "with its own values, beliefs, sexual mores and to a certain extent, its own economy."

New York author, William Tucker, relates Hymowitz's story of a world where teenage fathers are reviled by the idea of marriage, where 14-year-old girls who haven't yet been pregnant are viewed by peers as "thinking you're better than us," where older mothers take pride in seeing their sons get girls pregnant and where older fathers are altogether absent.

The economy of this subculture, of course, rests largely on government funding, with the exception of those persons independent-minded enough to either struggle with a low-paying job or

turn to crime. Ask anyone on welfare who genuinely wants off — it's no safety net, it's a whole other world with virtually no escape.

Call me an idealist, but I view welfare reform efforts as having the potential to create the next great emancipation in American history. High ideals, however, are useless without the down and dirty logistics to support them.

The Republican plan, known as the Personal Responsibility Act, first goes to the heart of the problem by attacking social breakdown — not with preachy rhetoric or feel-good campaigns, but with substantive cutbacks and limitations on government-provided incentives to behave irresponsibly.

The idea is that by prohibiting benefits to unwed teenage mothers, not only do you discourage illegitimacy, you also save money which can then be sent in block grants to states which can use the funds to promote adoption programs or other services to young mothers getting no help from the father.

The problem with alternative welfare reform proposals offered by Clinton and congressional Democrats is that for all their talk of work and responsibility, they fail to put a dent in the federal bureaucracy, and in some cases actually expand it with ridiculous proposals like the WORK pro-

gram, which basically takes those who fail to get a private sector job within two years of receiving benefits and gives them "wages instead of benefits" by making government employees out of them.

Such proposals fail to address the other great problem with welfare — cost.

Right now total welfare spending constitutes 13 percent of the federal budget.

Of that, 27 percent is cash aid, 11 percent is housing, 18 percent is for food benefits (school lunch, food stamps, etc.) and 44 percent is for medical care.

AFDC, which comprises 28 percent of the cash benefits, spends 13 percent of its budget on administrative costs alone — money that never gets to the hands of the needy.

Administrative costs of the Food Stamp program are 12 percent and the Child Support Enforcement program spends 25 percent of its budget on pure bureaucracy.

Now let's pretend welfare spending is more efficient than it actually is and say only 10 percent of total welfare spending covers administrative costs.

That would mean that more than one percent of the entire federal budget goes to the welfare bureaucracy alone.

The Republican plan is the only one so far which has managed to combine equal doses of compassion and common sense.

It only makes sense that local officials, churches and private charities — who see the downtrodden face to face — are better able to deal with their needs than a faceless Washington political machine that must extort from the general populace to meet well-meaning but nevertheless failed ends.

Assistant editorial director Matt Felice is a telecommunications sophomore.

Thoughtless cuts would hurt those truly in need

Last week, the U.S. Catholic Conference administrative board, which represents America's Roman Catholic bishops and rarely adopts "liberal" positions on American social issues, announced its opposition to the Republican approach to welfare reform.

In a statement titled "Moral Principles and Policy Priorities for Welfare Reform," the bishops argue that the Republican plan would hurt poor children and punish them for the behavior of their parents. "We must resist the temptation to see poor women, minority families or immigrants as either passive victims or easy scapegoats," the statement said.

One need not be religious to discover the flaws in the plan. If many Republicans had their way, welfare would be eliminated entirely. The principle of "transfer payments" simply runs counter to their ideas of "rugged individualism" on which capitalism is based. These Republicans think that people are poor because they are somehow bad — lazy, unskilled or maybe just dumb.

Although there may occasionally be a kernel of truth in this line of reasoning, I think it displays more arrogance than accuracy. Far more true, I believe, is that the poor are simply unlucky. A little poverty is the price our society pays for economic freedom.

The capitalist system which has allowed so many Americans to thrive also has been the source of economic despair for millions of others. A familiar term to any American economist is the "natural rate of unemployment" — the minimum rate of unemployment which can occur in an economic

system due to the structure of the labor market.

In other words, some people will always be unemployed in a capitalist system. This occurs, not because they are lazy or unskilled. It occurs because there are no jobs to be found. Their poverty has less to do with cycles of dependence than with business cycles in the economy.

Since government actively fights to uphold a capitalist system at home and around the world, should it not also be responsible for aiding the impoverished who bear capitalism's heaviest burden?

I say that it must. Ours is a government by the people, for the people. Implicit in the word "people" is a notion of a collectivity, a joint venture. We are all in this thing together?

Capitalism's natural unemployment and poverty compels some sort of welfare system. The question then becomes: what type of system?

Democrats and Republicans agree on two basic reforms: time limits and work requirements. The time limits (probably 2-5 years) will restrict the amount of time a person can receive welfare within his or her lifetime. Work requirements will force every able-bodied person to work. Aid recipients will be required to seek jobs or continue their education.

The two parties disagree, however, about how much money

should be spent on welfare. Many Democrats want welfare to remain an entitlement so that all who qualify receive aid. Republicans want to set strict spending caps which cannot be exceeded. The Republican plan would deny aid to some people who qualify for it, especially during tough economic times.

Also, President Clinton wants to spend more money to create job training and placement programs, which the Republicans oppose. These programs are necessary to get people "off the welfare rolls and onto the job rolls."

Even with a host of job programs, some able-bodied people will be out of work. Republicans do nothing for this group, preferring that they instead remain naturally unemployed. In essence, the Republicans have adopted a sink-or-swim approach to welfare reform.

President Clinton's plan would subsidize private sector jobs (good for the employer and the employee) or, if all else fails, create public service jobs for those who are still unemployed. Clinton would rather see the impoverished swim to the top of the labor pool, but he is also willing to throw a life preserver to those who are drowning.

Even with this new spending, Clinton's welfare reform plan would save \$3 billion over the next 5 years, with the real savings occurring down the road after the system is fully in place.

In a word, the Republican plan is compassionless. Welfare recipients may not have gone to the polls in 1994, but if Republicans thrust them into starvation they will be lining up to vote in 1996. In key races where freshman Republicans win by only a few percentage points, the welfare vote may turn our country's political tide back in the favor of the Democrats.

Don Puckett is a political science and journalism senior.

READERS' forum

Financial aid cuts endanger future of our education

To the editor: The Republican Congress is methodically working to destroy my life and the lives of millions of other hard-working college students from middle-class families.

Under their Contract Against America, \$1 billion in campus-based aid (Parker's loans, work-study and supplemental educational opportunity grants) will be cut and would eliminate aid to 4.5 million students.

Thank goodness President Clinton has shown his sincere devotion to higher education. Clinton wants to expand direct lending and individual education accounts; Republicans want to cap participation at 40 percent. Clinton wants to expand AmeriCorps national service program; Republicans want to dismantle the initiative. Republicans want to expand Head Start; Republicans want to limit the funding for Head Start.

By opposing Republican proposals to end the in-school interest subsidy, President Clinton will protect 4.5 million current borrowers from accruing interest charges on their loans until after they finish school. The Department of Education estimates that ending this subsidy would mean that a student who borrows \$17,125 over 4 years would owe \$130 more. Education and have his or her monthly repayment amount increased by more than 18 percent. (This program directly affects some 55,242 students right here in Kentucky.)

In a speech to the American Council on Education in San Francisco on Feb. 14, President Clinton said, "Republican leadership... proposals will cut investments in our future and increase the cost of student loans for the wealthy. They will limit the availability of lower cost direct loans to middle-class students to increase profits for the middlemen. And they won't re-invent the Department of Education as I have done to make it a stronger voice for

education — they will abolish it. To all of this, I say no. I will fight these proposals every step of the way, and I want you to join me in this fight."

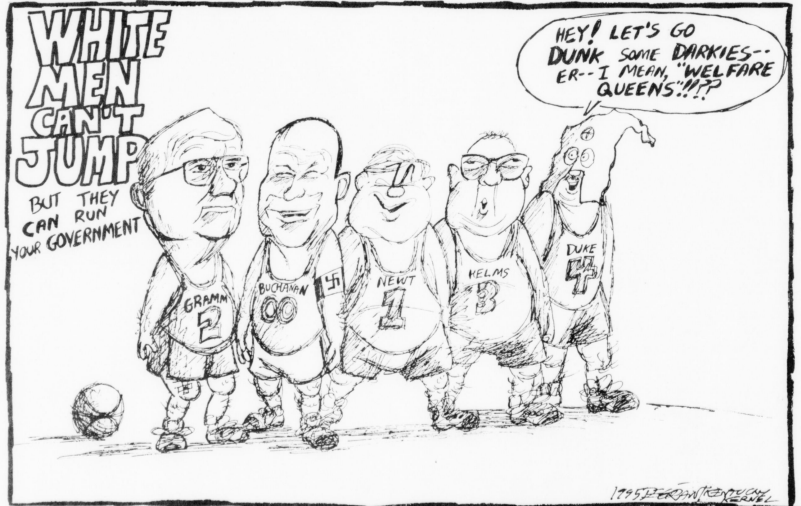
In order to stop such heartless cuts to education, we cannot sit passively and watch the Republicans in Congress ruin our futures. We must act and make our voices heard!

We have to put an end to their rhetoric and false, cold-hearted promises. The well being of our nation depends on our success in education.

If you don't want to see these programs cut, let the folks in Washington know about it. Call your Senator at (202) 224-3121 and your Representative at (202) 225-3121.

Let's let Newt know that the students in this country are not going to roll over and play dead while he ruins the future of education in America.

Todd A. Bledsoe
Political science junior



Breaking ties

The battle over the student press continues at Kentucky State University after the media adviser for the student newspaper and yearbook filed a lawsuit against the school.

She claims in the suit that she is being punished because she wouldn't tell students to withhold negative stories and letters from the paper. She is asking the court to prohibit KSU from taking the paper in front of a review board before it can be published. She is also asking for any merit raises that may be due her.

As supporters of freedom of the press, we think the University should stay out of the affairs of the newspaper. The administration and faculty should stay out of the process and let the students learn from the experience.

The best solution would be for the newspaper to make the move to independence. Cutting financial ties over time with the University would give the paper its editorial freedom and relieve the school of any responsibility it has for the paper. It's a long, hard process that the Kernel itself endured under similar conditions.

However, paying your own way is the best way to ensure you will enjoy freedom.

There are other ways, however, the administration can help make the newspaper. Wanting a publication with fewer errors is an honorable goal, but cutting negative stories at the expense of the truth is unethical and wrong.

If they don't feel the quality of the paper is good enough, then the responsibility would lie with the adviser. Find out if the adviser is improving the paper before deciding to take control. If the adviser isn't getting the job done, then maybe the administration should look for someone new who can make the newspaper better.

Having said that, it must be pointed out that the University does give money to the newspaper and therefore has legal precedent for reviewing the publication.

The administration should have the courage to allow the students to work out any problems on their own and not resort to tactics, but no one ever said school officials are fair in censorship issues.

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TALKback!

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Viewpoint page in person or by mail.

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor", Kentucky Kernel Editorial Office, 035 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building, UK, Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042. Send electronic mail to KENTUCKY@UKMAIL.UK. Letters should be approximately 250 words; guest opinions should be no longer than 850 words.

All material should be type-written and double-spaced, but hand-written will be accepted if it is legible.

Include your name and major classification (for publication), as well as your address and telephone number for verification. Frequent contributors may be limited, and we reserve the right to edit all material.

Award honors service

By David Turner
Staff Writer

An award recognizing UK students for participation in volunteer community service will be presented in early April, said UK administrators.

The Darrel A. VanMeter Service Award is named in honor of a UK student who died unexpectedly in the spring of 1991.

"As he was playing basketball one night he suddenly fell to the ground and died," said Rhonda Strouse, director of the Student Organizations Center at UK.

She said VanMeter, who was involved with the Black Student Union, was very committed to community service.

UK has tried to recognize VanMeter for his "good Samaritan approach to helping others in the community," said Robert Hemenway, Chancellor for the Lexington Campus, in a memo to faculty and administrators.

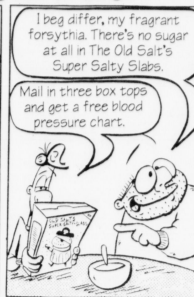
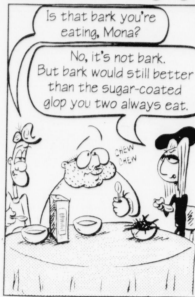
Hemenway asked them to recommend candidates for the award. Nominees must be UK juniors or seniors who have completed at least four community service projects within two years of applying for the award. At least one of the events must have been organized by the candidate.

"This is the only UK award based on community service," Strouse said.

The eventual recipient will receive a plaque and \$200 in cash, which will be presented to the student at the University Honors and Recognition Awards banquet in April. The banquet honors UK students who have demonstrated an outstanding dedication and commitment to the community, Strouse said. Students can be nominated by faculty, staff or their peers. Although students can nominate themselves, organizers said this does not happen often.

The original deadline for candidate applications was set for March 22. But with Spring Break, it's been extended to March 28.

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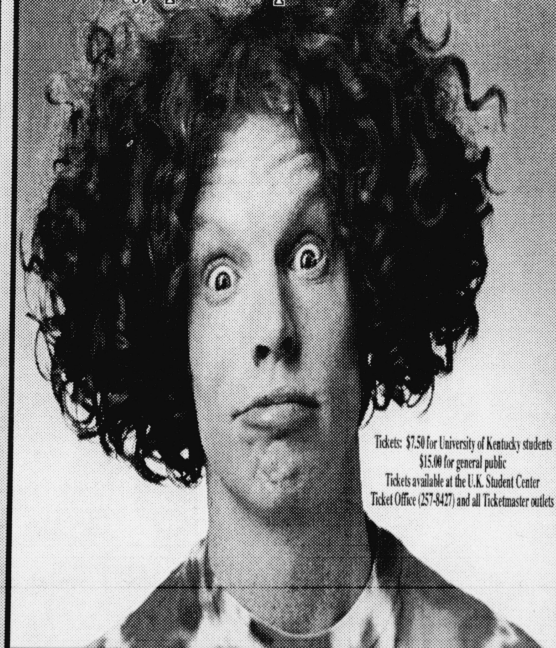
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with
John Carter Cash

Tickets:
\$15.00 for University of Kentucky students
\$17.50 for general public
Tickets available at the U.K. Center Ticket Office (257-9427) and all Ticketmaster outlets



Carrot Top is Coming Back

Friday, April 7th at 8 p.m. in Memorial Coliseum



Tickets: \$7.50 for University of Kentucky students
\$15.00 for general public
Tickets available at the U.K. Student Center Ticket Office (257-9427) and all Ticketmaster outlets

Brought to you by your Student Activities Board Concert Committee