

COMING TOMORROW

Under the magnifying glass: Tubby Smith keeps his cool in the bright lights of Lexington's version of Hollywood



THE Kentucky Kernel

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

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Trustees approve tuition increase

Also give final oversight of SG elections to UK

By Sean Rose
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Next year's UK seniors will have gone the last four years with yearly tuition increases of 12 percent or more.

The Board of Trustees made the 12 percent tuition increase official yesterday, passing it with overwhelming majority thus making it the fourth consecutive year with a double-digit increase. This, though, was lowest increase of the four, barely.

The only dissenter in all the votes was Student Government President and student trustee, Becky Ellingsworth. Ellingsworth said despite next year's increase being half a percent less than the one that took effect this year, it was still too much.

"I know this is lower than last year's," Ellingsworth said. "Several years of double-digit increases have taken quite a toll on the student body."

Other trustees said the increase was needed. Trustee Ann Haney said as a parent of a UK student the double-digit jump was "a necessary evil," and others sympathized with students but still supported the increase.

"Most of us have been in their (students') position and know the toll each additional hundred dollars takes," said trustee Pamela May.

President Lee Todd said there were some compromise in the 12 percent rise and a higher increase would have been needed if the Top-20 Business Plan were strictly followed based on the funds coming from Frankfort.

"According to the business plan, to do all the things we want to do... we would require a 17 percent increase," Todd said.

The funding that comes from state government is a key factor for tuition costs. The House of Representatives in Frankfort unanimously approved a budget that gives \$9 million more to UK for the 2007-08 school year, but that was far less than what the \$18 million UK requested under the business plan. The tuition increase will likely not be affected unless the Senate adds funds for next year.

See Trustees on page 2

UK police cope in cramped quarters

By Megan Boehnke
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

When UK police officers need gloves, uniforms, tape or first-aid kits, they look in the bathroom.

The two restrooms in the campus police department have become catch-all storage areas. To make even more use of the space, acting UK Police Chief Kevin Franklin boxed in the bathtubs and inserted shelving.



A department in transition

PART 2 OF 3

FRIDAY: New police chief presents his plan

"I can take you into the bathroom and show you where I had to make storage cabinets just to move stuff out of my office," Franklin

said. "You can tell it's not an efficiently designed or operating building — it was never designed to be this way."

The department, which shares just less than 8,000 square feet with Parking and Transportation Services, sits on the corner of Euclid Avenue and Rose Street. The police department moved into the building in the early 1970s when it was a house divided into several apartments.

This summer, the parking and transportation offices will move into the parking structure currently under construction on Virginia Avenue, giving the police department an estimated 40 percent more space, Franklin said.

While they will be able to use that space to create a roll-call room, more storage and individual offices for all the shift commands.

See Police on page 4

Reading between the LIES

Ridvan Peshkopia, a bookish dissident, refused to blindly believe government-sanctioned propaganda. The UK political science instructor helped free his native Albania from a stifling communist regime in 1990.

By Andrew Martin
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

On long winter nights in Albania, a young Ridvan Peshkopia would lie in his darkened bedroom and stare at the ceiling, dreaming and listening. To pass the time, his father had illegally rigged a transistor radio to pick up signals broadcast from foreign lands — signals banned by the communist government, which sought to control every facet of its citizens' lives.

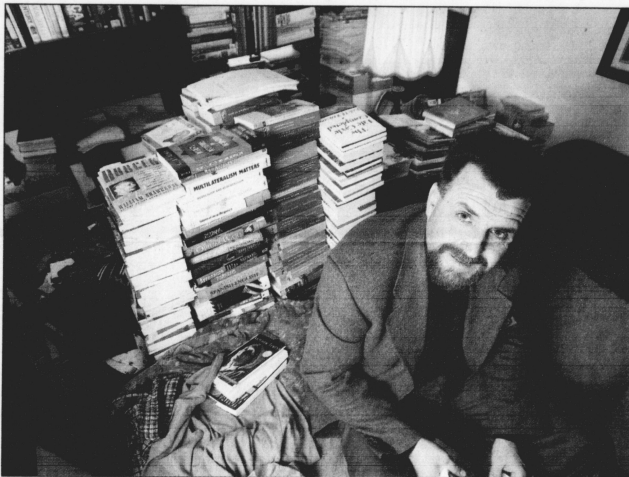
Throughout the night, as Peshkopia and his father listened to the crackle of BBC and American radio stations, and programs such as "Voice of America," the future UK student and instructor would dream of some day journeying to the United States.

Peshkopia never imagined immigrating in order to live the classic American dream. Instead, he wanted to travel to the United States for intellectual opportunities not available in his corner of the world.

Such a day would come — but not before Peshkopia and his family spent many years caught in the crosshairs of communist tyranny.

An education in dissent

The Peshkopia family's modern political odyssey began in World War II, when Ridvan's grandfather, Nexhat, and the Albanian



KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Ridvan Peshkopia poses in front of part of his extensive home library on East Maxwell Street. A lifelong lover of books, the UK political science instructor and Albanian hopes to purchase the 500 most influential books in political science this year. Packages of books arrive on his doorstep on an almost daily basis.

nationalists lost a civil war to the Albanian communists.

Having backed the losing side, Peshkopia's grandfather faced dire consequences: He was exiled.

"He was actually sen-

tenced to death," Peshkopia said. "After a few years in Europe, he came here to the United States and spent the rest of his life here without having the chance to contact his family there — his wife

and his son and daughter." And in November 1944, Nexhat Peshkopia was exiled from his country, never to see his country or family again. But he did manage to contact them.

"Some distant relatives

who lived in the U.S., but who were in good terms with the communist regime visited Albania and handed some of my grandfather's stuff to my grand-

See Albania on page 4

At A Glance | Communism in Albania

APRIL 1939	NOV. 1944	JAN. 1965	APRIL 1985	DEC. 1990
Italy invades Albania and declares the country a protectorate	Enver Hoxha takes power, Nexhat Peshkopia leaves Albania along with 150 other exiles	Ridvan Peshkopia is born in Tirana, Albania	Hoxha dies. Two months later, Peshkopia is expelled from Polytechnic University for political reasons	The Albanian student revolution ends the communist regime and institutes a parliamentary government

Rally protests unequal raises

By Megan Boehnke
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

More than 200 people gathered outside the Patterson Office Tower yesterday to protest the difference in the proposed salary increases between staff and faculty.

Under President Lee Todd's proposal, faculty members will receive a 5.5 percent increase over the next five years while staff members will receive a 3 percent increase.

"Introducing this two-tier class system to the university is damaging to the fabric that holds the university

community together," Russ Williams, the staff representative on the Board of Trustees, told the crowd.

The rally was intentionally scheduled at 11:30 a.m. — an hour and a half before the Board of Trustees met in the top floor of the office tower.

"Hopefully the administration will take us seriously," said Samantha Gange, a staff associate at the College of Law, who helped organize the rally. "This is a visual to show them that we're not just going to stand by. We are a voice here."

After the Board of Trustees meeting, Todd said that he does not see staff

members as second-class citizens and hopes they do not feel that way.

"I knew that there would be concern. I realized that this was a difficult decision and I realized there would be people who would react negatively," he said. "There's times when you've got to make decisions not everyone agrees with."

In his mind, Todd said he sees it as a 3 percent raise for everyone and a 2.5 percent "catch-up" for the faculty to be more competitive with benchmarks. He also said he earmarked \$5 million in the general budget that will

See Rally on page 2

Ky. House allots more funds for UK

By Wes Bleivins
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky House of Representatives yesterday passed its version of the 2006-08 biennial state budget, which fully funds UK's new biopharmacy research complex, the UK Chandler Medical Center's bed tower and allots increased funding to

UK's Top-20 Business Plan. The budget, which passed on a unanimous 97-0 vote, increases UK's general funds by \$4.6 million in 2006-07 to help boost the Top-20 Business Plan and an extra \$9 million for the plan overall. UK will also get \$14 million more for the general fund in 2007-08.

See Budget on page 2

Trustees

Continued from page 1

UK could have raised tuition by as much as 15.1 percent, a limit set by the Council on Post-Secondary Education. Todd said he didn't want to raise tuition to the maximum and that setting it at 12 percent was a difficult decision.

"The easiest thing for me to do is to not raise tuition," Todd said after the meeting. "This is not the time for easy solutions."

Todd also argued that even with the increase UK is still an affordable school, citing a Kiplinger study of best values in public education where UK finished second amongst its benchmarks.

"I still feel we're affordable," Todd said, but added that he would prefer things otherwise. "I look forward to the days we don't have to have double-digit increases."

Rally

Continued from page 1

to go to some sort of staff benefits.

"I wish everybody could be happy with what we're doing, but I've come to realize that that's not always the case," he said.

Drusilla Bakert, the associate dean of admissions at the College of Law, received the greatest response from the crowd today, telling it that she wanted to send a message to UK that it will not be able to achieve top-20 status without its staff members.

"At every level, UK is woefully understaffed. Other schools laugh when I tell them what the staffing is at our law school," she said. "Every year, UK asks us to do more with less and every year we meet that challenge. And yet, our university is telling us that our work and dedication are not valued."

Williams said that he did not want the issue to divide faculty and staff.

"It's not a person we're

Todd said the need for the tuition increase is tied to the Top-20 Business Plan's goal to increase faculty in the future.

"We have to have 27 more faculty for this year to help get our student-faculty ratio where it needs to be," Todd said. "That's the main driver."

The board also passed a housing increase, raising basic housing to \$3,612 per year — \$249 more than this year. The increase is \$29 less than this year's increase. Dining costs will go up making the cheapest meal plan of eight meals a week \$1,898 for the year, \$132 more than this year.

Changes made to UK-SG relationship

The board also passed governing regulation changes that give UK oversight on certain SG procedures, with Ellingsworth as the only opposing vote.

The biggest change in the regulations is that the UK

Appeals Board would have the power to confirm or deny the result of an SG election if the outcome was disputed.

The appeals board was involved in last year's election controversy, declaring candidate Will Nash the winner. The board's decision prompted Ellingsworth to sue UK in Fayette Circuit Court. She won the case, and UK eventually dropped its appeal.

The regulation changes, drafted last semester, are attempts to help clarify the relationship between UK and SG and help prevent the situation that developed last year from happening again.

Ellingsworth has said it's a conflict of interest and allows the UK administration to indirectly pick the student representative on the Board of Trustees.

"I'm strongly opposed to this," Ellingsworth said. "It still has the ability to give the university a black eye."

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objecting to or people, it's a concept. We need to not look at this as any kind of effort to put a wedge between us and our faculty colleagues," Williams said. "There are faculty members here with us now who are as outraged about this as we are and we appreciate that outrage."

One of those faculty members, biology professor Judith Lesnaw, also spoke to the crowd, offering her support.

"No one person, no administration, no faculty members, no students and no staff can achieve this alone. I want to preserve the community," she said. "I want you to know that this faculty member wants to preserve this and wants to help you. So, please tell us, the faculty, how we can help."

Allison Connelly, a faculty member at the College of Law, also supported the protest of the unequal pay raises.

"To be a great university, there has to be fairness across the board," she said. "And this is just plain unequal and unfair."

The faculty and staff raises are not finalized and will

still depend upon the funding that the university receives from the state.

"All this uproar may be for nothing if we don't get the support of the General Assembly. It could be at the end of the year when we do our budget, that we'll all be lucky, faculty and staff, to get a 3 percent raise," Williams said. "It's all dependent upon the General Assembly and they have a lot of different demands on a little pot of money."

He also said that, if at the June meeting of the Board of Trustees they propose a budget with a higher salary increase for faculty, he would vote against it.

Williams added that he still supports the Top-20 Business Plan, calling it "one of the most revolutionary ideas in higher education."

"I voted for it and I'd do it again," he said.

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“To be a great university, there has to be fairness across the board. And this is just plain unequal and unfair.”

— Allison Connelly, faculty member of the College of Law, on the gap in pay raises between UK staff and faculty

Budget

Continued from page 1

Rep. Joe Barrows, D-Versailles, said the budget makes a connection between Todd's "proselytizing" over the Top-20 Business Plan and meeting the goals of becoming a top 20 research university. "(The budget) makes it easier to reach that goal," he said.

Two Lexington-area representatives were optimistic that the Senate version of the budget would include further increases for UK. Rep. Stan Lee, R-Lexington, said he is working with members of the Senate to gain additional funds for the university.

"We're on step two of about a six-step process," he said. "We have a long way to go."

Rep. Bob Damron, D-Nicholasville, added he is "hopeful" the Senate will "keep and improve" upon the House budget. He said Gov. Ernie Fletcher has been critical of the level of expenditures, but he said, "UK is necessary government spending."

The budget includes funds for construction of new buildings on campus, as well as for renovations of some residence halls. Chairman of the House Budget Committee Harry Moberly,

D-Richmond, said the budget is a positive step for the people of Kentucky.

"Ask (university presidents) how much better their budgets are and how much more they'll be able to do," he said.

The bio-pharmacy complex is slated to get full funding with \$76 million and the bed tower will receive \$130 million from the state to go along with \$25 million in allotted UK funds, which are restricted solely to that project.

Todd said the \$9 million allocated for UK's top-20 plan is a sign of the "legislature's support of the plan and their interest in seeing results." He said the additional funds will be used to provide raises for faculty and staff through a 3 percent salary pool.

An additional 2.5 percent increase will go into UK's faculty catch-up fund. Todd said the university's goal is to attain the benchmark median in faculty salaries by 2012.

"That's critical because faculty drive the research dollars that will help propel us up the rankings," he said. In the wake of Monday's announcement of a 12 percent tuition increase for the 2006-07 academic year, Barrows said every higher education institution is looking at significant tuition increases.

"Even given our best intentions," he said, "We still

lack resources to fund higher education at an adequate level."

The \$18 million requested for the Top-20 Business Plan would have kept tuition increases under 10 percent, according to Todd.

Rep. Lee said he is concerned that there is a perception among the student body that the General Assembly has cut funding to higher education, so UK has no choice but to raise tuition.

Todd said the shortcomings in the top-20 fund for 2006-07 will force the university to make some tough decisions in the coming months. However, he said that won't affect UK's drive.

"We can't — and we won't — back off the ambitious goals we have set for UK," Todd said, adding that the state can't afford for the university to back off its plan to become a top-20 institution.

Still, Todd is optimistic for the direction the budget takes in its second year.

"The firm commitment legislators have made in the second year of the budget," he said, "will help ensure that UK continues moving forward with its Top 20 Business Plan, while being sensitive to tuition costs."

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TV JUMBLE

by David L. Hoyt

Use the clues to help unscramble the TV Jumble. Use 10 letters to reveal answers. 5-20-06

Clue: I remember watching this when I was in school.
RICALEH Clue: Angelic boss

Clue: Sliding Sam
TEHBCRU Clue: "VG" growth

Clue: This was the first U.S. sitcom to enter large air markets in Moscow, Russia.
RFWSOLE Clue: Benny or Earl S.

Clue: Arrange the unscrambled letters to form the first and last names of a famous person suggested by the above cartoon and clue.
ASDORINU Clue: Benny or Earl S.

Answers to 3/1/06: JIMMIE VOLLMER TRIBUTE DICKENS CONTROL
 Answer: The first version of the show, debuted on TV in 1967.
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EVENT TIME: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

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FRAMEXFRAME | In theaters and on shelves



Horrific pandemonium prevails in the Russian thriller "Night Watch," directed by Timur Bekmambetov. The film begins a trilogy following the ultimate, tangible conflict between good and evil. "Night Watch" is now showing at The Kentucky Theater.

PHOTO COURTESY
TWENTIETH
CENTURY FOX

IN THEATERS

NIGHT WATCH

In present-day Moscow a war of Biblical proportions begins to stir. The forces of Darkness begin a series of skirmishes against the Night Watch, the forces of good. Yeah, agreed, it sounds kinda lame when you say it aloud without the booming bass of that movie trailer guy's voice. Nevertheless, this opens a trilogy from Russian director Timur Bekmambetov that looks to be, at the very least, a journey into the weird. Now playing at The Kentucky Theater.

THE HILLS HAVE EYES

What's with 2005 — 2006? Has Hollywood officially run out of original creative ideas for horror flicks? The basic premise here is that the United States' nuclear tests in the Nevada desert during the 1940s spawned some interesting human progeny who've been living in wait and hiding ever since. Also, they like to kill people. Opens Friday at Regal, Woodhill and Lexington Green.

THE LIBERTINE

John Wilmot, the second Earl of

Rochester, played by the ubiquitous Johnny Depp, starts to hang out with King Charles II played by John Malkovich. Unfortunately, he also falls tragically in love with an aspiring actress, played by Samantha Morton ("Minority Report"). This film was released earlier this year into large cities, but the rest of the country has been anxiously waiting. Something tells me any anticipation that people once had has dissipated by now. This movie has been done so many times one loses count, and just because it has Johnny Depp and John Malkovich in it, don't think it's going to be much different. Opens Friday at Regal, Lexington Green and Woodhill.

ON DVD

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Harry Potter is thrown into the Tri-Wizard Tournament much to his chagrin and has a long-awaited encounter with the dastardly Voldemort. This was one of the more entertaining films in the series, and boy...the DVD release does not disappoint. Interactive games that actually work and are fun to play? Weird. Commentaries that actually shed light on the production and conceptualization of the film? Astounding!

JARHEAD

It's unfortunate that this film tried to be the "Apocalypse Now" and "Full Metal Jacket" of our generation and fell so flat on its face. Nevertheless, it does function as one of the most pretentious war films of all time. Ever. Oh well, C'est la vie. Oops! There's that pretentious pseudo intellectualism again.

JUST FRIENDS

Just don't. Again with the fat suit shtick? Written and directed by Roger Kumble ("Cruel Intentions"), "Just Friends" stars Ryan Reynolds ("Van Wilder," "The Amityville Horror") in the aforementioned fat suit while trying to score with a long lost high school sweetheart who destroyed him by using that simultaneously disappointing and hurtful phrase.

-Compiled by Asst. Features Editor
Ian Conley

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ONTAP | For the week of MARCH 8 - MARCH 14

TONIGHT

Augustana and the Damnells
7 p.m. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$10.

Tommy Castro
8:30 p.m. Southgate House, Newport.
Tickets cost \$15 to \$18.

Long Beach Shortbus
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

TOMORROW
Will Hoge w/ Limbeck
8 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

FRIDAY
Man Man w/ Scourge of the Sea,
Margot and the Nuclear So & Sos and
Jeremy Fresh
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Hellmarys w/ Nightmare Music, The
Deehawks, Rubberband and The
Talboys
10 p.m. High Life Lounge. Tickets cost \$5.

SATURDAY
The 69 Eyes w/ Damone and Program
of the Dead

8 p.m. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$12.50.

Ricky Skaggs
8 p.m. Louisville Palace. Tickets cost \$25 to \$55.

Hayseed Dixie
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

SUNDAY
Rhys Chatham w/ Tony Conrad and
Jonathan Kane
7 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

The Tallboys
8:30 p.m. High Life Lounge. Tickets
cost \$4.

MONDAY
Lucinda Williams
7 p.m. Kentucky Theater. Sold out.

The Mendoza Line w/ Great Lake
Swimmers and Elliott Brood
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

TUESDAY
Tula
8 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

COMING SOON

Bela Fleck and the Flecktones
7 p.m. March 15 and March 16. Kentucky
Theater. Tickets cost \$46.50 per show.

George Clinton and Parliament
8 p.m. March 19. Bogarts, Cincinnati.
Tickets cost \$25 to \$28.

The Academy Is w/ Acceptance, Panic
at the Disco and helloworld
8 p.m. March 23. Bogarts, Cincinnati.
Tickets cost \$13 to \$15.

MasterClassics Concert with the
Lexington Singers
8 p.m. March 24. Singletary Center for
the Arts. Tickets cost \$23 to \$41; UK
students receive a \$5 discount with
proper ID.

Kenny Chesney
7:30 p.m. March 25. Rupp Arena.
Tickets cost \$53 to \$63.

Nickelback
7:30 p.m. March 25. Freedom Hall,
Louisville. Tickets cost \$38.50.

-Compiled by Projects Editor
Crystal Little
E-mail: clittle@kykernel.com

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-Kevin Cross, LA Times

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Police

Continued from page 1

ders, the building is still inadequate for a police station, Franklin said.

Officers operate out of the windowless basement that features exposed plumbing and wiring.

Brown stains mar the floor in the basement where sewage used to creep out of the drain. The department was finally able to fix the problem last year.

"It's very embarrassing for us to bring someone down here with any sort of report. It's not a comfortable place," Officer Mike Bandy said. "Sometimes we have victims of violent crimes and this is the only place we have to bring them."

Of the six benchmark universities closest to UK's enrollment size, all but two have built new facilities or have renovated existing facilities since 2000, including the University of Georgia, which moved into its new facility in 2005.

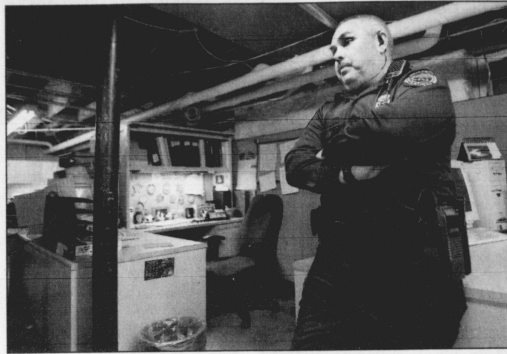
The biggest difference for UGA's department is the layout. Deputy Commander Jeff Whitfield said.

"We were able to design the interior of the building," Whitfield said, referring to an old building with no interior work before the university leased the space. "We were able to put walls where we wanted them and have basically been able to design a police department."

In that design, UGA's department has built larger dispatch and records rooms, adequate locker rooms and a separate room to keep firearms. It also installed an evidence lab with a vented hood and equipment to do forensics.

UK uses a closet to store its evidence and has one locker room for both its male and female officers.

"You have to holler, 'Is there a girl or a guy in here?'" Franklin said. "In this building, if we have a biohaz-



Officer Mike Bandy sits in the basement of the UK Police Department on Feb. 28 in the office that all of the shift commanders and officers share.

ard or something, we have no showers here where (officers) can clean up."

Instead, a lone sink is available in the basement bathroom.

Ken Clevidence, vice president of campus services, which oversees the police department, has been directly involved with the department for more than three years. In that time, Clevidence has advocated for both more officers and a new facility.

While the department has received new paint, cubicles for shift commanders and new carpet in the last few years, he said it is still not enough.

"They work hard and they deserve a place to relax and do their paperwork," Clevidence said. "There's no adequate locker rooms, where we can have storage facilities."

At this point, he said there has been some discussion about a new facility but the first step is to get the building on the capital plan, the university's list of building priorities. Once part of the plan, it would still most

likely take time before it receives high enough priority to receive the funding to be built.

"It may not happen in my tenure here," he said.

Since Franklin joined the force in 1984, he has been on three building committees. "The new building we first talked about, we were talking about 50,000 square feet. So, hopefully in that area between 40,000 and 50,000," he said. And, while parking moving out will open up a little more space, it is still only about one-fifth of that square footage.

"The long range goal is still to have a free-standing, well-designed police department," he said, "designed where you have places where officers can take a shower, where officers can have adequate locker rooms, where we can have storage facilities."

In the last few years, improvements have been made to the equipment in the department.

"The university has responded and provided us with a lot," Franklin said.

"We have more vehicles and better vehicles. We have better equipment for crime prevention. We have better equipment for the detective bureau. We've got the golf carts. We've got the motorcycles. We have improved our radio system. Now, everybody in the building who needs a computer has a computer."

And though these are just small steps toward a bigger goal, Clevidence said he is encouraged by the progress. "We've come so far," he said.

And, while new officers may come into the department and still see what there is left to do, Clevidence said veterans who have been in the department before its recent updates appreciate the changes.

"We're basically trained to adapt and (Clevidence) is trying to get the best equipment and building we can have," Bandy said. "In the past, you would not believe what we had to work in."

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Albania

Continued from page 1

ma," Peshkopia said. "Yet, although the regime was severely oppressive, my grandma never yielded to its demands to divorce her husband, and they continued for the rest of their lives to write each other."

Because communist ideology holds that behavior is collectively motivated, Peshkopia's grandfather's exile had stiff repercussions for the rest of the family.

"My father was a very studious person," Peshkopia said, but "he didn't get a right to have university studies his because his father was a political exile."

Instead, Peshkopia's father found work building power lines. For the last 10 years of his career, he built power lines in coal mines.

And in 1985, Peshkopia himself would be dismissed from Polytechnic University (located in the Albanian capital of Tirana) because of his family history. He was originally able to conceal his identity because a large student body enabled him to slip through the cracks of the admissions process. Also, some of the admissions people were also sympathetic to the Peshkopia family.

But the trick was revealed, and after a year, Peshkopia's family history came back to haunt him. The widow of communist dictator Enver Hoxha hated Peshkopia's grandmother and had him expelled.

"At that time, (Hoxha's wife) was still influential," he said. "I was evicted in June 1985."

A separate act of defiance also subjected his mother, Drita Balliu-Peshkopia, to government scrutiny.

"My mother came from a hardcore communist family and she just decided to marry my father without any regard for the rules and the norms," Peshkopia said.

But familial punishments wouldn't be the only burden Peshkopia and his family would have to bear.

A closed society
Albanians didn't have basic freedoms enjoyed by democratic societies. The gov-

ernment suppressed political and cultural expression contradicting its ideology.

The paranoid communist government in Albania was vehemently anti-American, as evidenced by its propaganda, Peshkopia said.

During their reign, communists suppressed pro-American speech or speech critical of the regime. When Peshkopia voiced his opinions at the university, some of his classmates, particularly the sons or daughters of anti-American communist elites, socially ostracized and threatened him. In some instances, they threatened that if he continued expressing his views, his father would be imprisoned.

His own mother rebuked him for speaking sympathetically toward America in public. But his father did not, and that was a sign of bravery, Peshkopia said.

But he was never punished by the government — an outcome Peshkopia admits was "just luck." He ban on subversive literature complemented the government's ban on speech. That ban especially troubled Peshkopia because of his lifelong love of reading.

"I always loved books," he said. By the age of 10, his library consisted of 150 titles. He eagerly read classic American authors such as Mark Twain and Jack London.

As he got older, Peshkopia learned other languages in order to plumb national archives for banned titles.

Sometimes ... we were able to penetrate the national library and find even books that were not allowed by the government in English, or in French or in Italian," he said. "This is why we tried to learn foreign languages, in order to get more clues about what was happening beyond that big prison that was Albania."

"And that damn custom of loving books and paying to buy them continues to haunt me nowadays," he said. "And that's what I've continued to do: always buy books and pushing my students now to buy and read books."

In addition to books, Western cultural expressions such as music and clothing were also banned. Peshkopia and his friends were able to

buy a variety of Western products — including clothing, such as denim jeans, and blank audio cassettes — from truck drivers with contacts outside the country.

"The truck drivers were (the only) guys who were practically visiting outside, and you know, we were told at that time it was better being a truck driver than a university professor in Albania," he said.

The audio cassettes were blank, but Peshkopia and his friends copied music from foreign radio stations. Peshkopia idolized Western artists such as the Rolling Stones, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Pink Floyd, Donna Summer, Dire Straits and Sting.

Western clothing eventually came so commonplace that wearing it in public did not attract much attention.

"We did (dress that way) because there came a time when that became so massive that the government was not able any more to halt it," Peshkopia said. "Every son and daughters of mid- or high-ranking communist officials ... were disgusted by the official fashion."

The faltering hold of the communist regime was evidenced by the proliferation of a "culture of curtains," where friends gathered privately and enjoyed many of the customs and fashions Westerners practiced, Peshkopia said.

Still, the state-run economy looked much different than a capitalist one.

"We were living in perfect equality. We were quite equally poor," Peshkopia said of his childhood.

The economy was backward. For instance, it was unlawful to own a car. And the government's hold remained strong. No foreign travel to and from Albania was allowed (with rare exceptions). The regime had considerable control over citizen's movements and free time, and significantly constrained their choices and opportunities.

From job to job
One way for the regime to keep Albanians busy was to assign them jobs.

"We couldn't have a type of job," Peshkopia said. "Jobs were all controlled by the government."

After being expelled from the university, Peshkopia worked as a bus mechanic and a miner. Eventually, he was drafted into the Albanian army. Peshkopia served in the anti-aircraft artillery on the Greek-Albanian border, and trained to fight NATO troops.

But he had horrible sentiments about serving in the army of the Hoxha regime. "I also had a terrible attraction from the other side of the border," he said, "because I know that the only thing that could have come out of NATO was freedom, and indeed, I was only dreaming for a NATO attack."

Peshkopia often hoped that "soldiers that would join with me and turn the weapons in the opposite direction" — against the regime.

He turned to an emotional outlet that had been with him since high school: exercise.

"It was a kind of ... trying to release the frustration, and I heard that this happens in most authoritarian regimes," he said. "People try to meditate more and find reasons to survive and ways to survive."

But he would not have to continue exercising to relieve his angst for long. Just five years after his expulsion, Peshkopia would return to Polytechnic University in Tirana as the country's communist regime gasped its last breaths.

A 'bloodless revolution'

Although important events were changing the world's political landscape, it would be an internal student revolution that ended the Albanian communist regime and forged a democratic parliamentary system — a revolution Peshkopia would help lead.

The student revolution faced a considerable amount of danger. Even in its decline, the regime was still adversarial toward human rights.

The government arrested Peshkopia in January 1990, shortly before he re-enrolled at the university. He was accused of trying to organize an anti-communist demonstration.

"We were severely beat-

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Albania

Continued from page 4

en," he said, adding that he was released the next day. During the student revolution, the police interrogated Peshkopia several times. After that, he was never held in custody again.

The revolution began Dec. 8, 1990. Albanian students rioted, asking for better food and more reliable electric power. But the demands changed quickly from material to political. The students called for the resignation of the communist government, advocating basic civil liberties.

When the beleaguered government acquiesced to the students' demands, five years of political stalemate ended.

"I was participating with a group of 30 students, a kind of committee that had a dialogue with the head of the communist regime and everything was effectively resolved," Peshkopia said. "We did not have any victims. It was a bloodless revolution."

The next day, several students created a new political party to compete with the Albanian communists: the Democratic Party.

But when interim elections were held the next year, the communists won the election. Although his party lost, Peshkopia was elected to the first Albanian Parliament as a representative of Tirana at age 26.

The initial setback for Peshkopia's party was partly

due to Hoxha's legacy. "He brutalized an entire society including his companions. And the entire society was pretty much entrapped by that myth," Peshkopia said. "It was a myth of fear."

Eventually, the movement gained support. In 1992, elections were held again and this time, the Democratic Party won, and Peshkopia was re-elected to a four-year term in the single-chamber parliament.

But the victory was minimal — he would break with his party the same year.

"The party was growing authoritarian," Peshkopia said. He and some friends provided right-wing opposition to the Democratic Party, which had become socialist in its ideology. And that stunted Peshkopia's chances for legislative achievements.

But he's still proud of his service.

"Politics has always been my great passion, and also a family tradition," he said. "I always wanted to serve my country, and also have a role in its history."

Coming to America

After his second term in parliament, Peshkopia stepped down in order to resume academic pursuits.

In 1999, he graduated from Polytechnic University with a degree in architecture and urban planning — 14 years after being expelled because of his family ties.

He briefly resumed his political career in 2001 when he was appointed national commissioner for refugees. At that time, the minister who appointed Peshkopia offered him

"We did not have any victims. It was a bloodless revolution."

Ridvan Peshkopia on the student uprising that toppled Albania's communist regime.

several scholarship opportunities. He ended up choosing UK because it was the best financial value.

Peshkopia arrived at UK in August 2002 and began studies at the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. Currently, he is a doctoral student in the political science department.

"I decided a doctoral program wouldn't harm," he said. Peshkopia currently teaches one political science class at UK and another at UoL. He is also co-editor of the Albanian Journal of Politics.

"I like teaching; it gives me an opportunity to keep talking in public, something that I always wanted," he said. "It keeps my political instincts alive. It also helps me to master the English in public talks."

The plethora of options now available to Peshkopia after years of coercion is a real source of comfort for him.

He's still not sure what his next move will be. Right now, the idea of teaching in the United States part-time and teaching in Albania the rest of the year is appealing.

"If I had come here 20 years ago, things would have been much clearer, but now I have other circumstances to take into consideration," he said.

Like family for instance. Last summer Peshkopia went home to Albania to visit friends and relatives. Although he stays with his parents, he also visits friends and his son Dritan, 14, and daughter Teuta, 7, who live with his ex-wife in Albania.

Peshkopia doesn't consider himself an American per se.

"The Albanian nationalism is so strong that often, even the second-generation Albanian immigrants in this country do not thoroughly identify themselves with the

United States," he said. "I would like to adopt the United States as my second home country, but if the United States will ever play soccer against Albania, I will cheer for Albania."

For the most part, the United States of his dreams has been a reality, although there are a few features of the country that Peshkopia would rather skip.

"One of things that I don't like in this country is the growing religious hysteria," he said. "I don't like living in such an environment. I don't like politics and religion to get mixed so much."

He also berates crass consumerism.

"I listen to people saying that when they mention their hobbies, one of their hobbies is to love shopping. That's stupid. And it really vexes me," he said. "What is that, to love shopping?"

Still, the negative aspects of popular American culture are ultimately trivial matters. Peshkopia feels a great deal of contentment with the educational opportunities available to him after a lifetime of constraint. But his insatiable thirst for knowledge and self-improvement translates into high expectations for the institutions he reveres.

"Undergraduate education here has a lower profile than Eastern Europe," Peshkopia said. "I believe students 21, 22 years old have unlimited absorbing capabilities. And I believe I am right when I want to charge them with more stuff than American professors want to."

"You have the best graduate studies humanity ever had," he said. "And I really love that."

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A family legacy of rebellion

Peshkopia family shares history of defying authoritarian rule

By Andrew Martin
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The first to break with the Peshkopia family tradition of rejecting an Eastern education in Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul, Turkey) was Ridvan Peshkopia's grandfather, Nexhat, who pursued a Western education in Belgium.

He would be the first member of the family to move to the Albanian capital city of Tirana, which was the birthplace of Ridvan's father, Edmund, and later Ridvan himself in 1965.

After completing his studies, Nexhat Peshkopia took a job teaching mathematics and physics at a high school in the late 1920s in Tirana, during the period between World War I and II, when Eastern European states were struggling to build stable institutions.

"When Italy occupied Albania in 1939, my grandfather openly defied the occupation."

The fate of those institutions was doomed, anyway in 1939, Italy invaded Albania. And Peshkopia's grandfather was reluctantly embroiled in a political struggle. Although many members of the Peshkopia family had been local politicians, none of them had ever been involved in politics at the national level.

"My grandfather didn't want to join politics. Indeed, he shunned politics," Peshkopia said about his grandfather, who was an Albanian nationalist. "When Italy occupied Albania in 1939, my grandfather openly defied the occupation."

But the Italians and the Albanian nationalists would become unlikely allies. Germany defeated Yugoslavia, and subsequently its ally Italy was going to join Yugoslav territories — which contained ethnic Albanians — to the Albanian state.

It was the prospect of uniting ethnic Albanians scattered sporadically throughout Eastern Europe, coupled with a rising communist movement in Albania, that gave nationalists pause. And the pro-Western feelings of the nationalists further complicated matters.

"For the Albanian nationalists, this was a situation because they hated fascists and they hated Nazis," Peshkopia said. "But paradoxically, the fascists and the Nazis fulfilled the Albanian nationalist dream, which was ethnic unification."

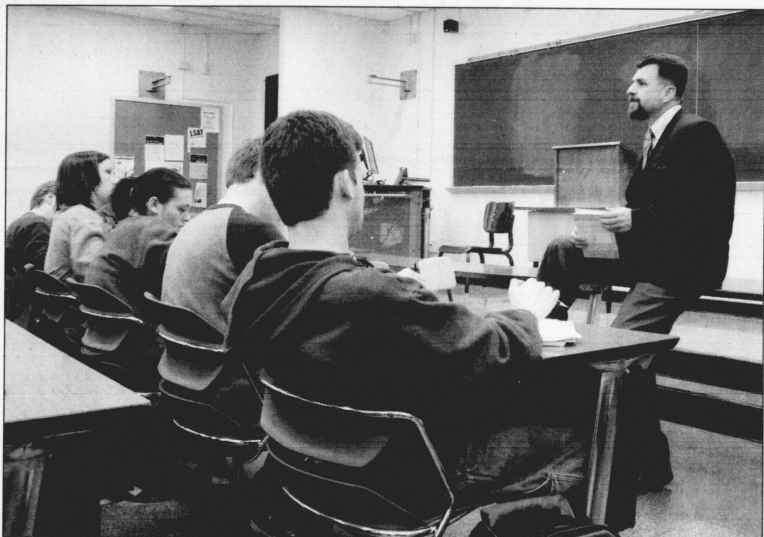
The pro-Western nationalists sided with Italy and Germany, but were defeated in a civil war with Albanian communists, who were flanked by British, American and Soviet support. Shortly after World War II, the British and Americans were kicked out, and Albania became a satellite state of the Soviet Union.

And Nexhat Peshkopia was exiled from his country never to see his country or family again. But he did manage to contact them.

"Some distant relatives who lived in the U.S., but who were in good terms with the communist regime visited Albania and handed some of my grandfather's stuff to my grandma," Peshkopia said. "Yet, although the regime was severely oppressive, my grandma never yielded to its demands to divorce her husband, and they continued for the rest of their lives to write each other."

Nexhat Peshkopia is buried in Detroit, and Ridvan visits his grave once a year when in town to see some of his cousins.

E-mail amartin@kykernel.com



Ridvan Peshkopia lectures during his PS 212: Culture and Politics in the Third World class in the Classroom Building earlier this week. Peshkopia came to UK from Albania in 2002. After the fall of communism in his home country, he helped form the Democratic Party and was a member of the country's first parliament.

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Cats prep for tourney

By Josh Sullivan
 After having just its second Senior Day game in 42 contests, the UK men's basketball team must find a way to regroup quickly if it doesn't want to spend Sunday night sweating out the NCAA Tournament selection committee's decision.

Leading the senior game has been a devastating blow, so we've got to be concerned about how our guys respond," said head coach Tubby Smith. He hopes his team's fate is

go and prove it at the SEC tournament.

With their loss to Florida on Sunday, the Cats finished the season in third place in the SEC Eastern Division, the worst showing since the conference split into two divisions in the 1993-94 season. Tomorrow's opening round game against the Miss will mark the first time the Cats have played on the first day of the tournament since 1979.

In one of their most impressive outings of the season, the Cats routed the Rebels 89-59 in Rupp Arena last month.

"Dwayne Curtis is the kid that makes their team go," Smith said. "We are not going to see what we saw here, they're a totally different team."

Miss offers perspective

Despite the loss to Florida, senior guard Ravi Moss will remember Sunday fondly after he takes off his UK uniform for good.

"It'll be nice," he speculated of his future perspective on the day. "I had a lot of family that came in. The game didn't turn out the way we wanted it to, but there are other aspects in life besides basketball."

The walk-on turned fan favorite said he wants to extend his UK career as long as possible, and he said the team needs a collective attitude adjustment if it wants to make a deep run in March.

"We're just going to have to step up and get a lot more excited about playing basketball," he said. "It's one-and-done from now on. We've got to play with a sense of urgency."

Method to the MADNESS



With UK set to begin play tomorrow on SEC Tournament's opening day for the first time since 1979, March Madness is ready to tip off. The Cats head to Nashville today with aspirations of rectifying a disappointing regular season with a tournament championship. "They're an excellent team and capable of winning the tournament," said Georgia coach Dennis Felton.

KERNEL SEC AWARDS

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 Glen Davis, Louisiana St. (sophomore center)

Coach of the Year
 Bruce Pearl, Tennessee

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Joakim Noah	So.	F	Fla.
Rajon Rondo	So.	G	UK

Best Team Leaders

C.J. Watson	Sr.	G	Tenn.
Darrell Mitchell	Sr.	F	LSU

Most Underrated Players

Darrell Mitchell	Jr.	F	LSU
Jamareo Davidson	Sr.	F	Alabama



UK sophomore center Ravi Moss blocks a shot by the Miss forward Hampton during UK's 89-59 win over the Rebels on Feb. 22. The two teams will square off again in the first round of the SEC tournament.

Cats will finally put it all together in Nashville

But Ole Miss took the floor without leading scorer Dwayne Curtis, who missed the trip because of the death of his brother. The Cats would earn an automatic bid to the Big Dance. "There's been our goal since we didn't win the regular season title," he said. "We've got to go in and prove we deserve to be in the NCAA, and the only way we can do that is to

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UK sophomore center Ravi Moss blocks a shot by the Miss forward Hampton during UK's 89-59 win over the Rebels on Feb. 22. The two teams will square off again in the first round of the SEC tournament.

Women's basketball awaits NCAA draw

The players said practices at the end of the season resemble practices from the preseason. "It's retro practice now," said junior guard Jenny Pfeiffer, who described the break as "awful." "It's just like the start of the season. It's gonna be tough, but the important thing is that we keep our focus and intensity."

Sophomore center Sarah Pfeiffer doesn't share Pfeiffer's dread of the layoff. "It's a good break," she said. "It allows us to work on the things that we haven't been doing well. Sometimes during the season we don't get to do that because we're always preparing for the next game and the next game."

Anyone who saw UK's 79-68 SEC Tournament semifinal loss to No. 3 Louisiana State would probably agree with Pfeiffer that the Cats have plenty of work to do on their list. But as poorly as UK played the previous night in an 89-70 thumping of Florida, DeMoss feels the break may help her team with consistency.

"We just need to keep our game sharp," she said. "That's what I told the team. The wait would seem immensely longer for the Cats if they were on the NCAA Tournament bubble, but that is not the case."

ESPN's Charlie Creme projects the Cats as a No. 5 seed playing No. 12 seed Washington (16.0, 11.7 Pac 10 Conference) on March 18 in Chicago. Jerry Palm, in his projection for College Sports Television, also has UK as a No. 5 seed, and has the Cats facing No. 12 seed Charlotte

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IN OUR OPINION

Tuition increase an unfortunate necessity

In all likelihood, the cost of a UK degree is about to go up — again.

In a campus forum Tuesday UK President Lee Todd announced a proposal for the fourth straight double-digit tuition increase next year.

Under this proposal:

- In-state, lower-division students would pay \$698 more in tuition and mandatory fees.
- In-state, upper-division students would pay \$718 more.
- Out-of-state, lower-division students would pay \$1,172 more.
- Out-of-state, upper-division students would pay \$1,186 more.

There's a silver lining: The 12 percent tuition hike is 0.5 percent less than this year's increase. Unfortunately, it's not a definite figure — the state budget process doesn't end for another few weeks, and the 12 percent could change, based on how much general fund money the legislature gives UK.

Tuition raises will always be a point of contention between administrators and students, but they're a necessary evil, especially if this university is to become a top-20 public research institution by the year 2020, as mandated by the state legislature in 1997.

Todd's Top-20 Business Plan, unveiled in December, confirmed his commitment to reaching top-20 status.

"If we cannot invest in this institution, we will always be a low-income state," Todd said in December.

He's right — and he's shown that UK is ready to take on the challenge.

The first stage of the plan is to cap enrollment until 2008 while adding 27 new faculty members each year for the next three years.

In addition, UK hopes the plan will help achieve five target growth areas by 2020:

- Increasing enrollment by 7,000 — 34,000 students total.
- Increasing graduation rate by 12 percentage points — 72 percent total.
- Increasing the total number of faculty by 625 to more than 2,500.

Keep following the path of responsiveness to needs



Students walk across the new path toward the White Hall Classroom Building between classes yesterday afternoon.

For college students especially, the shortest path is undoubtedly the best. And thankfully, UK has noticed.

A new path has been made near the White Hall Classroom Building — a shortcut students had blazed long ago on their way to classes.

Last week, UK constructed a path over a segment of the grassy median that students' shoes so often turned to mud. Now, the well-worn rut is a real walkway, and we

welcome it.

Students weren't going to change their route to class, so it was time for the annual cycle of re-seeding and then subsequent trampling to end. No green space was really lost — it was mud most of the time anyway.

So in this instance at least, UK saw what the campus wanted and made the necessary change. If only everything were as simple as this straight little path.

Increasing research expenditures by \$470 million — a total of \$768 million.

Increasing engagement in Kentucky's schools, farms, businesses and communities.

UK will absorb 40 percent of the cost of reaching top-20 status and has planned a 5.5 percent salary pool increase for faculty and a 3 percent increase for staff next year to help retain its employees.

And in Tuesday's forum, our university president reaffirmed his commitment to reaching top-20 status.

"Clearly, you have to start somewhere," he said.

The administration certainly has — Todd and Co. have taken a lofty, abstract notion and churned out a feasible, tangible road map to ensure UK's future success.

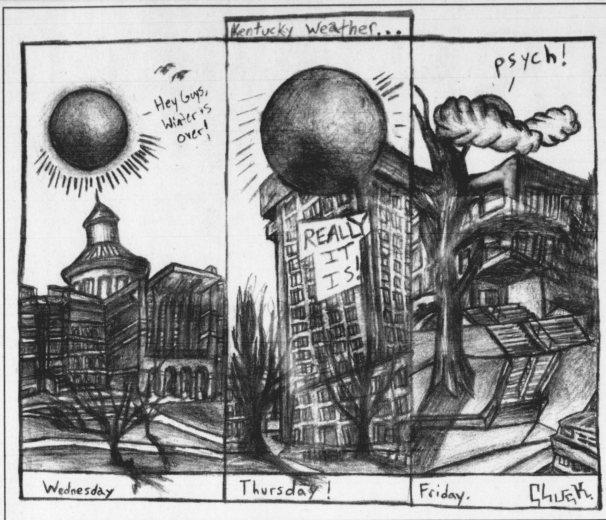
And as UK moves forward in its quest to reach top-20 status, those inevitable tuition hikes along the way will also entail a more valuable degree.

By raising tuition now, the university can bring up faculty and staff salaries, thus drawing in the people who will put UK on a level with other lauded public universities across the country; the increase is more than justified.

It's up to students to realize that paying more for a better education will only benefit us in the long run by increasing the value of our UK degrees.

But student attendance has been decidedly lacking during Todd's open forums. On Tuesday, fewer than 10 students were present in a crowd of about 50 that included faculty, staff and administrators. Such a lackluster public response negates any backlash from the student body when tuition increases are actually implemented — if we're so concerned about the rising cost of education, we should be present to discuss those issues when Todd offers us the opportunity.

Nonetheless, we should all realize the potential benefits inherent in UK's top-20 push, and yes, even tuition increases. Todd has put his faith in the university's future success — it's time we pour our money (and our faith) into his plan.



CHUCK CLENNY, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Staff deserves an equal raise

I don't normally respond to anything I read in *The Kernel*, but I have to take issue with *The Kernel's* stand on the salary increase differential. First, I want to point out that the 3 percent increase for staff is a poor, not a raise. With the merit system, the majority of staff will not receive a 3 percent raise.

I don't disagree that faculty deserve a 5.5 percent pool; I'm saying that staff deserve that same 5.5 percent pool. No one has yet explained why faculty deserve a larger raise than staff. Yes, faculty is paid below the benchmarks, but staff is paid below the local market. Explain to me how giving staff a lower percentage raise is going to get the faculty salaries closer to our benchmarks.

Having and retaining excellent faculty members is good for the university; but having and retaining excellent staff is also good for the university. It is the staff members that are keeping this university running. Staff members are clearing the parking lots, enrolling students, working with financial aid, processing payroll, protecting the campus, etc.

I keep hearing that staff is not looking at the future, but I have to disagree. I'm looking at the future of higher turnover (which costs the university money in training) and inexperienced employees that could make life for UK students intolerable. Everything that staff members do also affects the reputation of this university.

I would like the editorial staff to consider what staff members do for the university and know that we are an important part of UK reaching the top-20 goal before telling us that we do not deserve the same treatment as faculty.

STEPHANIE RISNER
student affairs

Racial status quo unfairly denigrates whites

In response to Chuck Sandburg's March 6 letter about the diversity debate, I would like to say: Chuck, you are not alone. I've discussed this issue with quite a few of my friends, and we all believe the same thing you do. I think we have just been too afraid to do it. We don't want to be recruited because we make them feel like numbers, not people. I don't believe we can make people attend our university; they have to make that choice themselves.

I agree with the fact that it is unfair to have all-black organizations if whites were to start an all-white organization, it would be considered racist. If we are not allowed to exclude people because of race, then why are blacks allowed to? Isn't that what affirmative action was designed to prevent? How about a

white history month? I am sure that would be considered racist too. What about a Hispanic history month, or an Asian history month? If you are going to have one for blacks, why can't the rest of us have a month too?

BRANDON MOODY
economics junior

UK sorely needs to embrace diversity

This letter is in response to Chuck Sandburg's March 6 letter. You want to know what is with all of this talk of diversity? It is because of people like Sandburg that we need to talk about diversity. We don't need a White Student Union. Just go to any library, food court, computer lab or basically anywhere on campus and you'll find plenty of white people. There already are white TV networks — Country Music Television, Fox News, etc. Also, to answer Sandburg's question: No, you are not the only white dude who thinks the way you do. There are many who agree with you. Put on a white hood and go to a cross-burning to find them.

The lack of diversity at UK should be a concern to everyone. According to the Web site for the President's Commission on Diversity, the racial make-up of freshman applicants for 2004-05 was 86 percent white; the freshman enrollment for the same term was nearly the same, at 89 percent white. Those numbers would lead me to believe that minority students might feel more comfortable in a more diverse environment. With numbers like those, how can one not feel the need for change?

JOSH BURKE
architecture senior

Ad meant no offense

The Kentucky Epsilon chapter of Phi Delta Theta recently held its annual philanthropy event, "The Big Lebowski." This event is a bowling tournament open to all UK students, and it benefits the ALS Association of Kentucky. The ALS Association is Phi Delta's national philanthropy affiliate, Lou Gehrig, a Hall of Fame baseball player and Phi Delta, died of ALS, which is commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

To help promote the event, Kentucky Epsilon recently placed an ad in *The Kernel*, which ran on Feb. 20 and 21. This ad contained a silhouette of two characters from the movie, in which one character was pointing a gun at the other. This was a scene from the movie and was not intended to be representative of anything else. We would like to apologize to anyone who was offended or in anyway discomforted by the ad. Our intent was to promote "The Big Lebowski" and ultimately raise more money for the ALS Association. Again, we are sorry and will strive to be more tactful in the years to come.

DANIEL TURNER
and the brothers of Kentucky Epsilon

Embrace the liberal arts, because college is more than job training

Though there may be much to be gained from receiving what many would call a "practical" education (i.e., receiving a degree in pharmacology or business), the benefit of instruction in the liberal arts cannot be ignored.

After all, the liberal arts are the foundations of not only Western civilization, but of all civilizations.

Unfortunately, we as a society do not place great importance on receiving an education that will teach us about the world and our place in it, we instead, demand to receive an education that will prepare us to do something in this world. Thus, students major in education so that

they may become teachers; students major in business so that they may become accountants or bankers; students major in journalism so that they may become reporters.

For those students who decide to study the liberal arts, others will become obsessed with knowing what the history major or the philosophy major or the English major plans on doing with his or her life. Whereas someone would not feel compelled to ask a student in the College of Pharmacy what she plans on doing after graduation, there is a great desire to know what the political science major will be doing.

We as a society have a hard time accepting someone who simply wants to learn something for the sake of learning. We as a society have difficulty subscribing to the notion "Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est," which can be translated to mean "Knowledge is power." Our

culture practically demands that anything we learn be connected to a future job function.

I write this little diatribe in response to Megan Vazmina's Feb. 27 column in *The Kernel*. In her column, Vazmina questions the need of the University Studies Program. She writes, "I will concede that incoming freshman (sic) are given the opportunities to take a variety of classes in order to find a major or subject area that suits them. But for those of us who have decided our life's path and are pursuing it sedulously, the University Studies Program is a mere hindrance." How depressing an idea — that college is merely a place to learn a job skill instead of a place to learn about concepts and ideas previously not encountered.

Since the beginning of time, man (and woman) has been driven by the desire to learn about the world around him. This desire is

what kept knowledge alive in monasteries and mosques during the Dark Ages; it is what fueled the Renaissance; it is what sent explorers across the seas and into the heavens. In short, it is what has motivated man to attempt to explain from where he came and to where he is going.

Yes, much may be gained from receiving a "practical" education and forgoing the "annoying" requirements of the University Studies Program, but there is much to be gained from learning the liberal arts. This university offers a myriad of opportunities to study art, literature, the sciences, philosophy,

history and politics, all of which better prepare us not to do something, but instead to be something — to be a lover of knowledge and learning, to be curious and inquisitive, to be ready to carry on the torch of intellect.

That process of being instead of doing is the foundation for the University Studies Program. To the Megan Vazminas of the world, I offer this final thought, courtesy of the Latin orator Cicero: "Cultivation to the mind is as necessary as food to the body."

Brian Smith is a graduate student in the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. E-mail: brian.smith@uky.edu.

Submissions

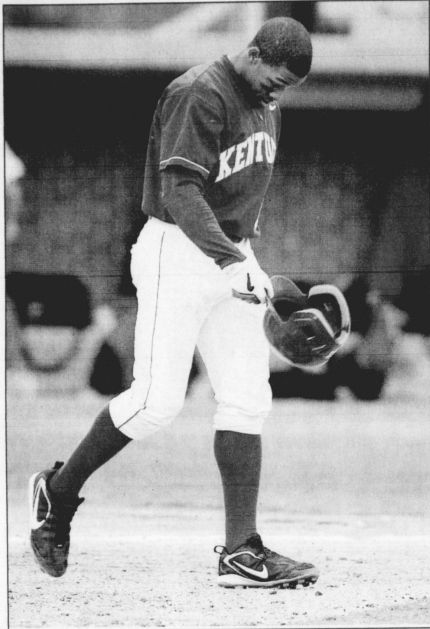
Send a letter to the editor to *The Kernel* at opinions@kykernel.com. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.



Brian Smith
GUEST COLUMNIST

WESTERN KENTUCKY 7, UK 6

Coach: Lack of practice shows in upset loss



Junior second baseman John Shelby walks away from the plate after striking out at the end of the seventh inning of UK's 7-6 loss to Western Kentucky yesterday. The Cats return to action today against Marshall at 4 p.m. at Cliff Hagan Stadium.

KEITH SAMLEY | STAFF

By Ryan Mabry
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The UK baseball team didn't practice Monday, and it showed in UK's 7-6 loss to in-state rival Western Kentucky yesterday at Cliff Hagan Stadium, according to head coach John Cohen.

"I think it's a failure of our coaching staff," Cohen said of the team's performance.

"I think we just didn't have our kids ready to play today, and unfortunately, under NCAA rules, you can't practice seven days a week, so we had to take a day off yesterday before a ballgame. We absolutely look like we spent yesterday not preparing for this game."

Even without proper preparation, it took a diving catch by WKU center fielder Cortez Armstrong to end the Cats' comeback bid and the game.

With John Shelby standing on second base and representing the tying run, pinch hitter Brian Hastings lined a flare up the middle, but Armstrong was just able to reach it before it touched turf, securing the win for the Hilltoppers.

Sophomore left fielder Collin Cowgill said the preparation of the opposing pitchers caused some of the Cats' problems.

"They had scouting reports on us," Cowgill said.

"They didn't throw many fastballs, and it's hard to get into a rhythm when you don't really know what's coming."

Missed opportunities were the theme early for the Cats, as they were able to load the bases in three of the first four innings using only two hits. But Western Kentucky pitching was able to escape serious harm each time, with a bases-loaded single by Shelby in the first and a run-scoring passed ball in the fourth the only damage done.

Cohen said the contrast in pitching speed between Northwestern, UK's weekend opponent, and the Hilltoppers caused UK hitters some problems.

"What we saw this weekend was good arms in that 88-92 range, and what we saw today was very low velocity, and we just weren't ready for it," Cohen said.

Sophomore shortstop Ryan Wilkes was one of the few UK hitters who was able to solve Western Kentucky pitching, going 2-for-4 with a single and double, and scoring two runs.

"Everybody was taking good swings," Wilkes said. "I was just trying to use the other side of the field."

The key play of the game came in the top of the ninth inning, when UK reliever Zach Dials (0-1) balked with runners on first and third with one out

and the game tied at 5-5. Cohen stormed onto the field to discuss the call with third base umpire Don Hudson Jr.

"He said that he saw some type of flinch," Cohen said. "You've got to make pretty doggone sure with a runner on third base that the call is going to be right, and I'm sure that he thought he was right."

The play brought the go-ahead run home for the Hilltoppers, and the eventual winning run scored one out later on a single to left-center by designated hitter Casey Hamilton.

Wilkes said the Cats would be ready to play today in their matchup with Marshall.

"Today we were kind of flat, and like coach says, tomorrow we're going to come out with a lot of intensity, and I think we'll get it done easily tomorrow," Wilkes said.

Cohen agreed with his shortstop.

"This is one of the top two or three worst games we've played since I've been at the University of Kentucky," Cohen said. "We took horrible swings, we defended the field horribly, and we've just got to come out here and fix it tomorrow."

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