

UK TREASURING POSTSEASON PLAY — EVEN IN THE NIT

Cats take on Wisconsin after advancing to the quarterfinals. PAGE 6

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KENTUCKY KERNEL

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UK, MIT study metals' impact on fuel efficiency

By Josey Montana McCoy
news@kykernel.com

It isn't alternative fuels that UK is hoping will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars — it's alternative metals.

In a study funded by a grant that partners UK with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, researchers will look at how to use aluminum in cars to increase fuel efficiency.

The goal is to determine possible reduction of emissions that contribute to climate change and global warming by using lighter metal in automobile construction.

Subodh Das, co-principal investigator of the project and director of both the Center for Aluminum Technology and the Sloan Center for Sustainable Aluminum Industry (CSAI) at UK, said studying aluminum use in vehicles is not new.

"This has been very active research," Das said.

Both the aluminum and steel industries want their products to be used in the construction of cars, Das said, but more time must be spent helping car companies select a material that benefits not only the consumer but the environment and economy.

Lighter vehicles get better gas mileage and in turn emit fewer pollutants into the environment. For every 10 percent decrease of vehicle weight there is a 5 percent increase in fuel efficiency, Das said.

CSAI is thrilled to be working with such a prestigious school as MIT, he said.

"When you sequester yourself with top-20 universities you can produce great results," Das said.

But he is even more honored to be working on this study in particular. "It's great to help solve a problem that needs to be solved," he said.

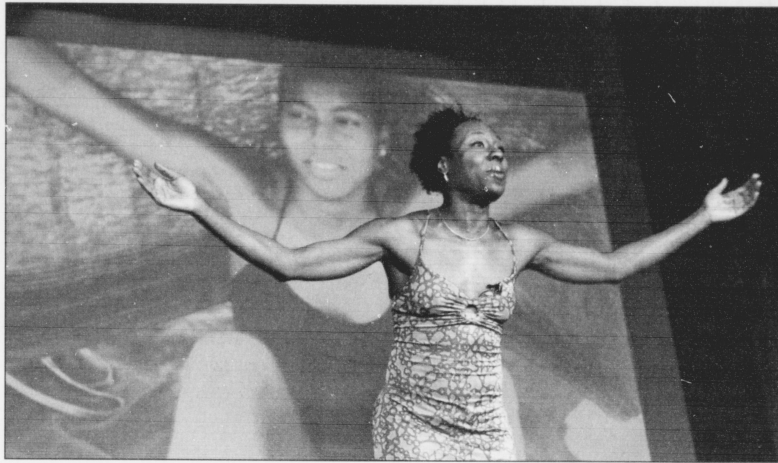
The project can help not only on a global level but on a state level. Kentucky is a leading producer of aluminum in the country.

Devanathan Sudharshan, dean of the Gatton College of Business and Economics, said Kentucky already benefits from the consumption of aluminum in the airplane industry and both he and Das said increased use in the automotive industry could open up more economic opportunities for the state.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a nationwide philanthropic institution that supports research that affects the standard of living and industrial and economic performance, is funding the project.

The International Motor Vehicle Program (IMVP) at MIT, the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, the Aluminum Association in Arlington, Va., and Secat's UK laboratories in Lexington are also partnering in the research.

'Dying and being born in the same day'



Lqochi Nwagwu performs a song she wrote, "African Butterfly," in Memorial Hall last night as a part of SOARS. Story of a Rape Survivor. The performances are a reflection of Salamishah Tillet's (pictured on screen) recovery process as documented by her sister, Scheherazade Tillet.

Sisters tell story of one's rape survival

By Jill Lester
jlester@kykernel.com

After finding out her sister had been sexually assaulted, Scheherazade Tillet decided to document the healing process.

What developed was SOARS, Story of a Rape Survivor. The program uses original photography, dance, music and performance pieces to capture her sister Salamishah Tillet's recovery after being raped as a college freshman in 1992.

SOARS was performed by four actresses last night in Memorial Hall to a crowd of more than 250 people.

The sisters and cofounders of the project spoke and took questions from the audience during the event last night. "Sexual assault not only affects survivors," Scheherazade Tillet said, the photographer and artistic director of the project. "It affects family, it affects friends, it affects partners."

"I thought maybe I should document Salamishah's healing process. It was my way to show support."

Event organizer Krista King wanted to bring the production to UK to share such support with students.

"A lot of people believe life ends after rape," King said. "This event shows the complete opposite."

This theme was evident in one of the performances titled "I Died and was Born on the Same Day," sang by Regine Jean-Charles.

King, a Women's Place volunteer and English senior, said she first saw SOARS at a conference at Ohio State University. "It's beyond words how moved I was," King said. "I knew right away that this group was what was needed at this precise time at UK."

After the program ended last night, King said she was impressed with how many people attended SOARS.

"I am so shocked," King said. "It's just reassured my faith in our community."

Last night's event was organized entirely by students. See SOARS on page 4

"I thought maybe I should document Salamishah's healing process. It was my way to show support"

SCHEHERAZADE TILLET
co-founder, photographer and artistic director of SOARS

Author hopes book helps rid Appalachian stereotypes

By Andy Harrell
news@kykernel.com

People unfamiliar with Appalachia often picture hillbillies when they think about the region's residents — not the first professional female journalist or a one-time owner of The New York Times.

Author, journalist and historian Jeff Biggers is out to reverse such stereotypes and highlight unknown products of the region. Biggers will discuss his new book, "The United States of Appalachia," at 7 tonight at the Gaines Center's Bingham-Davis House on Maxwell Street.

Biggers, a Southern Illinois native, will speak on campus as part of the Appalachian Center's "Topics in Appalachia" series.

"I want to get over the hillbilly stereotype," Biggers said. "Appalachia's contributions have been overlooked. The book is for those who don't

live in the region."

Biggers is the grandson of a coalminer but gained most of his experience with the region from the time he spent studying in the Virginias' Blue Ridge Mountains more than twenty years ago.

His lecture will address many unknown or undervalued individuals who have come from the region — like famed owner of The New York Times, Adolph Ochs, and the nation's first professional female journalist Anne Royall, both of whom were residents of Appalachia.

The region's role in social movements and historical events over the past century — including the Revolutionary War, abolition of slavery, labor, civil rights, and literary and musical achievements — will also be featured in the discussion.

Biggers said these subjects were "far from being lost in history," but rather, "have been at the crossroads for American changes."

Pre-dentistry freshman John Osborne, who plans to attend the lecture, is among those unfamiliar with the region.

"I'm pretty unfamiliar with Appalachia itself," Osborne said. "Its stereotypes and influences are all new to me being as I grew up in the Caribbean. I will most likely attend simply for that reason."

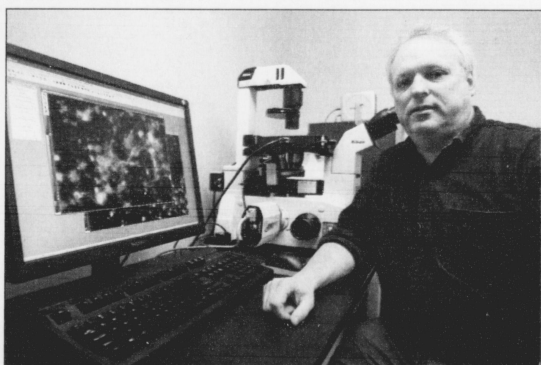
Undeclared Sophomore, Luis Lopez said he was interested in learning the "influences Appalachia has on American culture."

"I don't think I would be able to imagine the impact," he said.

He is not in the minority. Biggers argues that most people underestimate Appalachia's influence.

He hoped to change more minds tonight than he did in a previous trip to UK.

In his last visit, Biggers said he had "a low turnout" he thought, "because the Cats were doing so well." He joked that this wouldn't be a problem tonight.



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

David Yurek, a neurology professor at the UK College of Medicine, received a \$66,000 grant to research a treatment for stopping the progression of Parkinson's disease. He received the grant from the Michael J. Fox Foundation, which was started by the actor who was diagnosed with the degenerative disease in 1991.

UK researcher gets funds to stop Parkinson's progression

By Emily Coovert
ecoovert@kykernel.com

David Yurek has been interested in research for Parkinson's disease since he was a graduate student at the University of Southern California. Now, with the help of the Michael J. Fox Foundation, the UK neurology professor will have \$66,000 to help him find treatments for the debilitating disease.

"The inspiration for his work came from seeing patients with Parkinson's disease," said Anita Fletcher, a scientist in UK neurosurgery who works with Yurek. "He remains passionate not only about the science but also the future implications that his work may have on patients suffering from Parkinson's disease."

Yurek's project, titled "Nanoparticle Gene Therapy for Parkinson's Disease," examines a new approach for treating neurodegenerative disorders, particularly Parkinson's, which affects the central nervous system and often impairs motor skills and speech.

"This project looks at inserting genes into

brain cells so they make proteins crucial for cells to survive," Yurek said. "We're looking for a better way to deliver factors to the brain that stop the progression of the disease."

Yurek's laboratory is one of the first to apply this technology to central nervous system disorders. This relatively new gene therapy holds potential to help repair faulty genes, he said. The treatment uses transduction, a technique for boosting a particular gene in a cell by delivering DNA into the cell to produce crucial proteins to combat Parkinson's.

"It's not actually curing Parkinson's, it's halting the progression," Yurek said.

The treatment technique comes from Copernicus Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company in Ohio that has developed a way to deliver therapies to defective genes.

The Michael J. Fox Foundation is "dedicated to ensuring the development of a cure for Parkinson's disease within this decade through an aggressively funded research agenda," according to the foundation's Web site.

See Parkinson's on page 4

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THE DISH

By **Joey Bartolomeo**
US Weekly

The thing about celebrities is that they can party harder than anybody you know," a well-known Hollywood scenester with many famous friends tells Us. "I don't know if it's because they don't have real jobs or what, but they're always looking to keep the party going."

DRUGS AND HOLLYWOOD

They're pill-poppers, pot-smokers, coke-heads — and some of entertainment's biggest names. Us investigates the troubling epidemic of stars and substance abuse

One actress in particular, she says, steals the show when it comes to all-nighters. "I could be out partying with her, doing coke until 4 a.m., and then I'll need to go home and crash. At 2 p.m., I'll still be getting e-mails from her because she'll still be up, looking to party more."

was a very free atmosphere." Go to any club in Miami, NYC or L.A., says the scenester, and "I guarantee there will be a starlet doing lines on the toilet in the bathroom." In fact, at one L.A. club, staffers cleared out the bathroom so one famous blonde could enjoy some privacy — and presumably cocaine — with a group of friends. "She kept it occupied for nearly 45 minutes as a line of angry patrons waited outside," says a source. (Bathrooms at the most exclusive clubs often look like drug dens, albeit swank ones, with their dark lighting and decor.) Notes the scenester, "Coke is so not a big deal for young stars in Hollywood. It's like having a drink."

change in hair color. When confronted by Ryan Seacrest about her September DUI arrest, Paris Hilton replied, "It was nothing," adding, "I was just really hungry and I wanted to have an In-N-Out burger."

Until Smith's death, there hadn't been a recent serious incident to remind everyone of the dangers of drug abuse — like when 23-year-old River Phoenix died in 1993, or Saturday Night Live favorite Chris Farley in 1997. Explains L.A. attorney Allison Margolin, who handles many drug-related cases: "It's made people feel invincible."

Family History

The nonstop party scene and easy access to illegal and prescription drugs feed celebrity drug habits, but according to experts, that is not why so many celebrities end up in trouble — or in rehab. "Many have alcoholism and addiction in their heritage, so they come with that predisposition," Dr. Drew Pinsky, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at USC School of Medicine, tells Us. Drew Barrymore, who has a family history of alcoholism, began using drugs at the age of 9 and had gone to rehab twice by age 13. Spears' father, Jamie, has reportedly been treated for alcohol abuse, while Lohan's father, Michael, entered rehab as well. In fact, when the actress realized she was heading down the same path, she decided to seek help. "She knew that there was a pattern of drug use," a source close to the actress tells Us, "and she wanted to stop it."

In the Open

Indeed, a stay in rehab once killed a person's career, but now celebrities openly disclose their drug use in interviews: Lohan admitted to drug use in *Vanity Fair*; singer Fergie has been candid about her former crystal meth addiction; Justin Timberlake has admitted he was stoned when he recorded his multiplatinum CD *Justified*; and John Mayer — currently dating Jessica Simpson, daughter of a former Baptist minister — gave Rolling Stone an interview while puffing on a marijuana vaporizer. While in the field, Us reporters often run across celebrities doing everything from smoking pot to snorting lines of cocaine at both private parties and clubs. For some stars, a rehab stint or a DUI is no more momentous than a

One source recalls a recent star-studded New Year's Eve bash in Miami: "There were lines of coke on the table, weed everywhere. It was insane. It

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — Your energy level is higher in the next several weeks. The money's coming in today and tomorrow. Your assignment is: show restraint. Don't go on a shopping binge.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — Stand firm for what you feel is most important now. Your position is under attack, but their arguments lack substance.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — Behind-the-scenes manipulation isn't your favorite tactic. You can find out a lot by asking questions in private, though. Don't take action, yet.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Your friends encourage a celebration, but that wouldn't be prudent. Express your appreciation freely, but hang onto your money.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Acquiesce to an older person, not because you care, do it because you must. It's good for business. It's good manners and it's good for your spiritual growth.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — It's not a good time to travel. Something you're working on will fall apart if you leave it for long. Give the job your full attention.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 6 — You'll make the most today by carefully monitoring your spending. Only buy things you absolutely know will increase in value.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — You're attracting admiration from a secure, giddy type. If appropriate, this could be a nice romantic connection. If not, do business.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — The urge to actually produce something is becoming overwhelming. Do it for the sake of artistic expression, and just for the fun of it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — You have been hurt before, but don't harden your heart. Don't open up your purse either, and try to win love with gifts. That won't work well.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 6 — When you get into a new topic, your curiosity's voracious. You devour the literature on the subject as if it were popcorn. Popcorn as a side dish would be more appropriate.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 9 — Keep practicing and studying. Do what you love, over and over again. This is how you develop your natural talent. Trust that the money will follow. At this time in your life, it will.

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FDA hearing fails to discover cause of E. coli outbreak in spinach

By Brandon Bailey
San Jose Mercury News

OAKLAND, Calif. — Despite an unprecedented investigation over the last six months, federal and state health officials said Tuesday that it is unlikely they will ever pinpoint the exact cause of bacterial contamination that caused a nationwide outbreak of illness from tainted spinach last year.

The disclosure, just weeks before a final report on the investigation is expected to be released, came at a hearing where representatives from consumer groups and a national trade association for the produce industry called on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to set mandatory rules to assure that fruit and vegetables are safe to eat.

FDA and state health officials, however, said they favor voluntary guidelines and industry self-policing, including a set of standards that California growers are expected to adopt next week. The government officials said they would not rule out mandatory regulation in the future.

Growing and packing practices need to improve said Dr. David Acheson, the chief medical officer for the FDA's food safety office. But he also warned that another outbreak of food-borne illness will likely occur.

"We're never going to get to the point of zero risk," he told reporters during a break from the day-long hearing, convened by his agency to get public input on ways to improve food safety. "Is this likely to happen again? Yes?"

And not solving the mystery makes it harder for farmers, trying to prevent future outbreaks. Hank Giclas of the Western Growers Association said farmers would like to know how the contamination occurred so they can reduce the chance of it happening again.

The investigation by state and federal health officials led them to a single 50-acre field in San Benito County where spinach tainted with the deadly E. coli O157:H7 bacteria was grown last summer.

Investigators said the bacteria on the tainted spinach, which killed at least three people and sickened 200 more nationwide, genetically matched bacteria they found in samples of cow manure in a nearby pasture, as well as water in a nearby stream and at least one wild pig in the area.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from March 6 to March 19

- March 6. Theft reported at UK Hospital at 10:18 a.m.
- March 6. Theft from patient rooms reported at UK Hospital at 10:58 a.m.
- March 6. Theft reported to UK Police Headquarters.
- March 6. Theft reported at the Kentucky Humanities Council at 5:17 p.m.
- March 7. Theft reported at UK Hospital at 8:49 a.m.
- March 7. Theft reported at UK Hospital at 9:10 a.m.
- March 7. Theft reported at the Allied Health Building at 10:05 a.m.
- March 8. Assault reported at Greg Page Apartments, Building 14 at 11:59 a.m.
- March 9. Theft of purse reported at the Gatton Business and Economics Building at 3:07 p.m.
- March 10. Alcohol Intoxication reported at Jimmy Johns at 2:13 p.m.
- March 11. Theft reported at UK Hospital at 12:54 a.m.
- March 12. Theft of computer equipment reported at Taylor Education Building at 9:53 a.m.
- March 12. Theft of items from two purses reported at the Kentucky Clinic at 5:05 p.m.
- March 13. Burglary reported at Dickey Hall at 10:11 a.m.
- March 13. Theft of cell phone reported at Sanders-Brown Center on Aging at 11:46 a.m.
- March 13. Alcohol Intoxication reported for a subject on a bike in front of UK Police Headquarters at 10:32 p.m.
- March 15. Theft of security camera reported at UK Hospital at 10:43 a.m.
- March 15. Theft of wallet from W.T. Young Library at 2:53 p.m.
- March 15. Theft reported at UK Police Headquarters at 4:53 p.m.
- March 15. Theft of wallet from Main Emergency Room Entrance at UK Hospital at 10:15 p.m.
- March 15. Theft of wallet reported at UK Hospital at 11:34 p.m.
- March 16. Theft of safe reported at UK HealthCare East at 8:14 a.m.
- March 16. Theft of parking passes from pharmacy reported at UK Hospital at 9:12 a.m.
- March 16. Theft reported at Stuckert Career Center at 9:59 a.m.
- March 16. Alcohol Intoxication for two males outside Kentucky Clinic reported at 10:28 a.m.
- March 16. Theft of money reported at UK Singletary Center for the Arts at 12:14 p.m.
- March 17. Theft reported at UK Hospital at 10:12 a.m.
- March 17. Theft of shoes reported at Greg Page Apartments at 12:34 p.m.

Compiled from reports at UK Police Department.
Compiled by staff writer Alice Haymond.
E-mail ahaymond@kykernel.com.



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SPORTS

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UK on pace to knock in record runs

Home runs may be down from last year, but scoring isn't

By Eric Lindsey
elindsey@kykernel.com

Before the UK baseball season began, head coach John Cohen knew his team would be hard-pressed to produce the amount of home runs they produced last year.

"I don't think that we'll hit close to 100 home runs like we did a year ago," Cohen said prior to the season. "When you think about hitting 99 home runs in 61 or 62 games, that's a lot."

While Cohen has been correct about the total dipping, the Cats are still managing to score runs at a record-breaking pace. Through the first 22 games, the Cats are on pace to break the school record for runs they set last year with 500 runs scored.

"I think it's a different type of offense," Cohen said. "I think our kids have done a nice job of putting together some big innings and some things have just gone our way."

Among the major offensive statistical categories, the Cats are at or better than most of the numbers they had at this point in the season last year. The Cats have more hits (269 to 238), a better batting average (.351 to .319), more extra base hits (98 to 96) and more RBIs (224 to 189).

Those numbers have translated into high-scoring games and are a big reason why the Cats are off to the best start in school history at 20-2. The Cats have scored 11 or more runs 12 times this year, including a 27-run performance over Tennessee-Martin on March 10.

"I think a lot of that has to do with coach Cohen and his hitting philosophy," said senior utility player Mike Brown. "He stresses to us to stay in the strike zone and to not chase pitches outside of the zone, and I think we're showing we've done that so far."

While there were questions during the preseason surrounding the offensive numbers the Cats would have to replace because of players like Ryan Strieby and John Shelby leaving for the Major Leagues, Cohen never had any doubts about this team's capability.

"We've had some really nice production from a lot of people," Cohen said. "I think we have more depth and we can go to more people than we could a year ago."

Cohen credited a lot of the increasing production to the emergence of Brown.



ANDREW HUGGINS | STAFF

UK senior utility player Mike Brown tries to score in a 10-3 win over Tennessee Tech on Feb. 25. Brown, who is batting .452 this season, has been a big reason why the Cats are on pace to put up better offensive numbers than they did last season.

The senior infielder currently leads the team with a .452 batting average after hitting just .207 in limited action last year.

"Nothing really surprises you with Mike because he's such a hard worker," Cohen said. "He's just so beloved on our team because he's such an overachiever. He loves the game and he just gets after it all the time."

Until going 0-for-4 on Saturday against Arkansas, Brown had a nine-game hitting streak in which he went 20-for-37 with 11 RBIs and 18 runs scored. The production was of little surprise to Brown, who struggled last season with limited playing time.

"Just being able to play has been a big difference," Brown said. "I've been fortunate enough to get the opportunity to play this year whereas last year I didn't know whether I was going to get one at-bat or five at-bats."

The scorching offensive numbers by

Brown, along with the typical consistency from senior catcher Sean Coughlin and junior centerfielder Antone DeJesus, are a big reason why the Cats are putting up better-than-expected offensive numbers in the first half of the season, Cohen said.

"So far they've just been tremendous," Cohen said. "They've been great leaders too. Baseball is a game of streaks. When one guy is swinging it well it's more likely that the other guys are going to start swinging it well."

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SPORTS BRIEF

UK Cheerleaders' reality show to air tonight

The UK Cheerleading squad will be featured on a six-episode series called "Cheerleader U" starting tonight at 10 p.m.

The series, which will air on Women's Entertainment TV (Insight Digital Choice channel 125), will go behind the scenes to profile the 15-time national champions.

"We are very excited to be featured on WE TV," said T. Lynn Williamson, the squad's adviser. "Cheerleader U" shows what hard work, determination and sweat equity that our athletes put into their seemingly effortless performances. The show is great for UK and our cheerleaders and cheerleading as a whole."

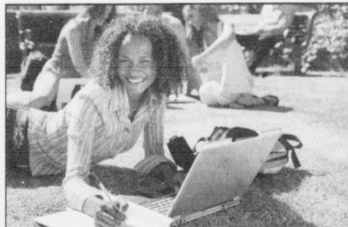
The show follows the squad from tryouts, through camp, class, practices, games and eventually to the Universal Cheerleading Association nationals in January.

"I'm proud that we can offer a glimpse into the world of collegiate cheerleading and show the strength of our team," senior Kelly Dupree said.

The previous week's show will re-air at 9:30 p.m. before the new show.

The UK squad has won UCA's National College Cheerleading Championships in 1985, 1987-88, 1992, 1995-2002 and 2004-06 — more than any other Division IA school. UK's squad is the only team to win back to back championships twice and the only squad ever to win more than two championships in a row.

UK's eight year streak of championships was broken in 2003 when they finished runner up to Central Florida. They regained the title in January 2004 and won their third straight in 2006. Central Florida regained the championship in 2007 when UK finished in third place.



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ALCOHOL RESEARCH STUDIES AT UK

- UK's Alcohol Research Center in the Department of Psychology is conducting a number of studies involving the effects of alcohol on behavior.
 - Participants should be between 21-35 years of age for alcohol studies.
 - Participants ages 18-20 are also needed for other studies not involving alcohol.
 - Healthy male and female social drinkers are needed.
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COMEDY CARAVAN

UK Hoops cherishing NIT

Cats put NCAA disappointment aside to keep season alive

By Travis Waldron
twaldron@kykernel.com

In most cases, a team would be disappointed to follow a 20-win season that ended in the NCAA Tournament with a berth in the National Invitation Tournament.

But the UK Hoops' team hardly feels this way.

"We would have liked to make the NCAA Tournament, but we're still in the NIT," said senior guard Jenny Pfeiffer. "Most teams are done right now, so we're just excited to keep playing."

The Cats will continue on in the postseason tomorrow night at 8 when they take on Wisconsin (20-12) at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Even though they are playing in an event that is often criticized for its lack of significance, the Cats (20-13) haven't thought twice about its importance.

Head coach Mickie DeMoss said the Cats' ability to spin their NIT berth as a positive has kept them from the mental lapses that often plague teams that miss the NCAA Tournament.

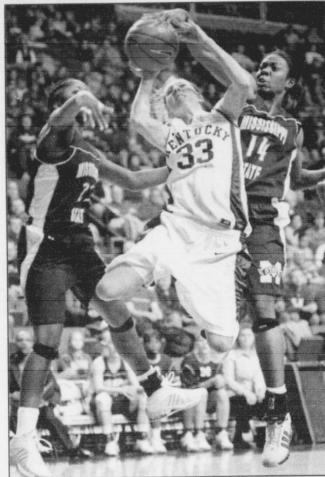
"That was a concern going into the tournament," DeMoss said. "I know we were disappointed we didn't get the NCAA bid. I told the team, 'I'm not going to go on the road with you guys if we're not ready to play.'"

DeMoss was pleased with her team's answer to that challenge.

"They asked me, 'Coach, why are you even asking us that?'" DeMoss said. "We want to keep playing."

UK's on-court performance has proven that desire to play. The Cats won their first two games of the WNIT, defeating Oakland, 65-56, last Thursday and Ball State, 85-82, on Monday night. Both wins came on their opponents' home floor.

The win over the Cardinals



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

UK senior guard Jenny Pfeiffer drives against Mississippi State in a 83-75 loss on Jan. 25. Pfeiffer has scored 34 points two NIT games.

was UK's 20th of the season, giving the team its first back-to-back 20-win seasons since 1990-1991. The NIT bid also gave the Cats their third consecutive postseason appearance for the first time in the program's history.

When they hit the road tomorrow, they'll play a Badger team that averages nearly 10,000 fans at each home game.

But after dealing with hostile crowds in their first two wins, the Cats have learned to enjoy silencing the fans, Pfeiffer said.

"It's funny to us now," Pfeiffer said. "Everybody's so loud and so excited, and they boo us. It's such a motivator for us."

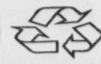
UK lost seven games by less than nine points and ended the season under the pressure of

trying to make the NCAA Tournament. Now, DeMoss said, the pressure is off.

"The next game is just a bonus," DeMoss said. "We had a little pressure on us all year, and we lost a lot of close games that could've broken our spirit. It says a lot about the resiliency of this team that we can bounce back and play with the energy we're playing with."

UK is still four wins away from the NIT championship, but Pfeiffer, Jennifer Humphrey and Nastassia Alcius, the three seniors, aren't worried about the title yet. They're just happy to be playing more basketball — no matter what tournament it is.

"We still made a post-season tournament," said junior center Sarah Elliott. "You're still going out there and fighting for a title."



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Under new rules, boot camp isn't just for the young

By Kevin Murphy
McClatchy Newspapers

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — Under his camouflage hat, Larry Wall's close-cut hair is mostly gray. He's heavy and his face is drawn — not unusual for a man of 40.

But when the drill sergeant says go, Wall jumps. He scales a cargo net in heavy boots. He crawls on his belly under barbed wire. He huffs and puffs to get over a seven-foot-high horizontal wood beam — not quite making it.

This is boot camp, and it isn't just for the young anymore.

Fourteen months ago, the Army raised its age limit for recruits from 35 to 40 to meet ever-challenging recruitment goals. Last July, the limit rose again, to 42.

People like Wall saw opportunity.

"This is something I wanted to do my whole life," said Wall, who left an accounting business in Alabama to join up. "Physically, it's been challenging being 40, but every day gets a little better."

In the first eight months under the higher age limit, the Army drew 653 recruits over 35. That was just enough for the Army to barely exceed its recruiting goal of 80,000 for the fiscal year ending last Sept. 30. From Oct. 1 through Feb. 12, the Army got more than 400 additional recruits over 35, including about 60 older than 40, officials said.

Wall and three others interviewed this month at the sprawling Army camp in south-central Missouri said they had no regrets about joining.

But recruits over 35 are having a harder time than younger ones making it through their first six months in the Army, data show.

About 12 percent leave within six months — mainly due to the physical demands — compared with 6 percent for all other recruits, said Bryan Hilfery, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon. Hilfery said he is not disappointed by the figures.

"The attrition is at the rate we expected," Hilfery said. "If it was at 50 percent, we'd have to

look at it."

Army officials said that although the age limit was raised and some other recruitment standards were relaxed, it was not due to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Army says it simply wants to reach out to more people.

"You still have a lot of good Americans out there," said Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Mace at Fort Leonard Wood. "You look harder to find them."

At Fort Leonard Wood, the recruits' day begins in 5 a.m. darkness with push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, running and other exercises. The long day of field training, weapon and equipment drills and other tests ends at 8 p.m. After an hour of free time, lights are out at 9 p.m.

Basic training runs nine weeks. Recruits can sign up for as little as two years' active duty, but most do four years.

Pvt. Ted William Fassler of Denver admits after nearly eight weeks of basic training that the routine drains his 41-year-old body.

"The difference is the recovery time," Fassler said. "At 20, people can recover faster. After I go through those workouts, I don't have the energy to run around or sing in the shower or whatever. I'm ready for bed."

Most of the older soldiers hold up well, said Lt. Col. Denton Knapp, battalion commander at the fort. "They know how old they are, and they come here in pretty good shape," Knapp said. Some older recruits joined because their son or daughter did.

The exercise regimen is adjusted slightly for age and gender, with fewer push-ups and slower running times expected of older recruits. That was the case even when the age limit was 35, Knapp said.

Recruit Ken Pons, 41, said basic training is a little more intense than he expected, but he quickly shed a nickname that younger recruits gave him. "At the beginning, they called me Grandpa, but when Grandpa beat them at some things, that kind of faded away," Pons said.

Asked why they'd join the Army after 40, the older recruits

spoke about serving their country in a time of need. But some had more practical reasons — a career change or college ambitions.

For Wall, not joining the military always gnawed at him. All the men in his family were in the Navy or Marines. Wall went to college to play football, got married and had two daughters.

"My place in life now allowed me to do it," said Wall, who is divorced. He said he doesn't feel like he is in a time warp in the midst of people half his age. "This is where I am now. It makes me feel young again."

Wall is in the same training company as Pons, who was a Coca-Cola delivery truck driver in California before joining the Army. Wall and Pons are in their fourth week of basic training.

"We have things in common to talk about — eight-track tapes and things like that that the kids wouldn't understand," Pons said, breaking a smile.

After his three-year stint, Pons wants to go to college with the Army's help. Pons and Wall said their friends and family strongly supported their decision to join the military, with one exception. "My mom said, 'Are you sure you want to do this?'" Pons said.

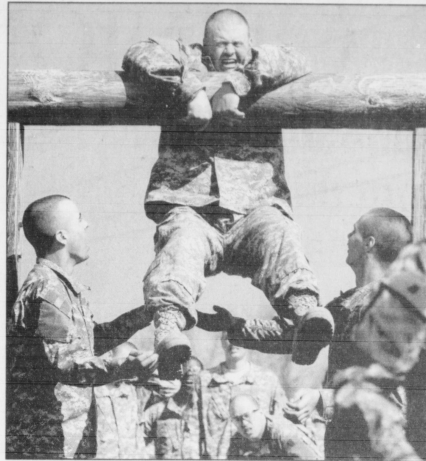
Fassler joined the Army partly because he wants to pay off nearly \$65,000 in student loans and advance his education. He wants to get a doctorate in public affairs and work for the military or federal government.

Fassler said his dad was a World War II veteran, and many of his friends served in the first Iraq war.

"There was always something in the back of my mind that I never did that when I was younger, and I regretted it," Fassler said. "I thought, 'Hey, it's my turn.'"

Fassler, who is single, said he is not afraid of serving or dying in Iraq.

"You hear on the news about kids 20 years old with families dying," Fassler said. "I don't have a death wish or anything like that, but if it was me instead of someone who was 20 years old, OK, I've lived a beautiful, wonderful life. It would be less of a loss for me."



With encouragement from the rest of his company, Larry Wall of Birmingham, Alabama, who is 40, tried to get through the confidence course in his second week of basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He didn't make it after four tries — but neither did many of the younger ones.

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The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's assigned editorialists represent the views of a majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the Opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of The Kernel.

Add another day (but not three) to fall holiday break

The UK Calendar Committee and the University Senate debated yesterday about changes to the current durations of Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break.

They tossed around two ideas: combining Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break to give students a full week off, thus eliminating two days from the semester; or moving the one-day Fall Break to the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

We think the second proposal is the most logical. Eliminating two days from the fall semester would not be the proper compromise to adjusting the too-short Fall Break and the too-short Thanksgiving Break. Cutting out two days of a semester would force faculty to make a drastic change to their class curriculums, which would put students in a bind. Also, with Winter Break only a few weeks away, students don't need an entire week off when they are going to get nearly a month off for the holiday season.

While students would be excited about having a weeklong Thanksgiving Break and about having two fewer days in the semester, this doesn't seem to benefit anyone in the long run.

If the one-day Fall Break — which is insufficient at best, especially because many students don't have class on Fridays — is moved to the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Break, all involved

KERNEL EDITORIAL

will see advantages from the change.

Many UK students live out of state and have long distances to travel to get home. It is unfair to them to have to stay in Lexington until Wednesday afternoon (or whenever their last class is) instead of getting home Tuesday night.

With this problem, many students not from Kentucky go home on Tuesday anyway, choosing to miss class in favor of staying and getting a late start on their trip home.

This also affects instructors. Some hold classes on Wednesday, and some cancel, understanding that many students have travel issues. They would no longer be forced to choose between accommodating students' desire to get home and giving them their benefit for their tuition money.

If the university is going to make a change, this option seems like the most plausible move.

If students were given the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Break off, it would allow them to get home to their families sooner, and it would help fix lagging attendance on that day. This would be a better solution than removing two days from the semester to extend Thanksgiving Break to a week.

Toyota partnership benefits both UK and Ky. economy

UK's research funds got a sizable boost from a recent pledge from Toyota to donate \$1 million for a new Institute of Research for Technology Development through the College of Engineering. Those funds also double with a matching grant from the state's Buicks for Brains program.

Research dollars coming to UK are always good news, but when the dollars come from a company with local ties, the benefits are even sweeter.

What makes the partnership even more impressive and unique is that UK is the only university that has such a partnership with Toyota, according to UK Engineering Professor Kozo Saito, who also serves as director of the institute.

"This is something we are very proud of," Saito said in a March 6 Kernel article. "No other university is intimately involved in and connected with Toyota headquarters."

Toyota, which has one of its largest and most productive plants in the country in Georgetown, Ky., has had ties with UK for nearly 15 years. Toyota's dollars and support come to UK, and the resulting manpower and brainpower from this partnership will benefit Toyota, as well as the whole commonwealth. The benefits do not stop at Toyota's factory doors or at UK's boundaries.

The new research opportunities created for students will give them real-world training that they can ap-

KERNEL EDITORIAL

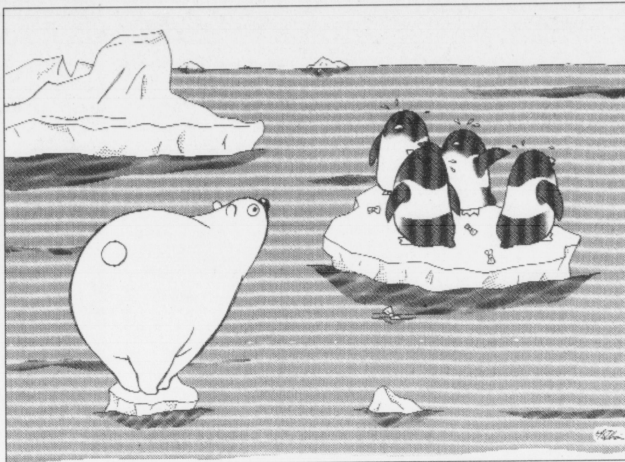
ply in the job field after they graduate. That, combined with Toyota's in-state location, means that students already have familiarity with the company and experience that Toyota can use, which increases the chance of keeping UK graduates in-state Kentucky.

This could set a precedent and offer an incentive to bring other industries to UK, but also to bring their business into the state, which brings jobs to Kentucky.

"UK has cutting edge research capabilities," Saito said in the article. "We need to help the state of Kentucky attract other automobile makers or parts makers to the state."

This is the type of partnership that benefits all sides. UK benefits from research dollars and improvements to facilities that come along with the partnership. Toyota benefits from the intelligence and hard work of UK's brightest students. The students benefit by getting the experience they need to get a good job. Kentucky benefits because it plays host to all of the above.

This is an excellent example of how UK's research mission should work, and it is important for the university to continue to seek out partnerships like this one. By doing so, UK fulfills not just its research mission, but also its mission of benefiting all Kentuckians.



DAISY CHAI, Kernel cartoonist

Local venues need to make options for the under-21 crowd

Although as an opinions page columnist I'd like to claim I know everything, I thought I would go to other students on campus this week for topics important to people other than myself.

Amid a variety of ideas, I initially laughed off sophomore Laura Tall's suggestion that I write about the upcoming Corey Smith concert. As the two of us lamented the fact that our

under-21 status would prohibit us from seeing the show, however, I realized that she had brought up a valid topic for discussion in the public forum.

Specifically, while there are a number of causes for underage drinking among college students, sheer boredom should not be overlooked. After all, if your only social options for a Thursday night are sitting in your dorm room snoring your way through Calculus 4 or going to a party and getting wasted, you're probably not going to be solving differential equations any better by Friday.

That is not to say campus groups such as the Cats Den and the Student

Activities Board do not do an admirable job of providing entertaining activities for students on campus, but it is an unavoidable fact the college students enjoy getting off of campus to have pointless nights of fun in a variety of cultural activities and beautiful parks. Unfortunately, these don't fit the standard requirements held by most college students to qualify as an evening's entertainment.

Perhaps more importantly, however, there are easy alternatives that the existing venues could take to help alleviate this problem. The first and simplest solution that comes to mind is the standard "hand-marking" system used by many bars and clubs. Simply by marking the hands of student's who are under 21 (or by using a unique stamp for those of drinking

age) the bartender can quickly determine who can order drinks. Combine that with a rule that prevents drinking away from the bar (to discourage sharing), and you have a fairly strong way to allow alcohol at a concert while still allowing students between the ages of 18 and 20 to enjoy a sober night out.

Another (admittedly less attractive) idea is the inclusion of more concerts throughout the fall and spring semesters where no alcohol is served. Obviously there would be revenue lost from bar sales, but it could potentially be made back through increased cover charge profit reflected by larger crowds. If club owners are unwilling to go this far, having under-21 shows on Sundays (when they cannot serve alcohol anyway) might even help to some degree.

Regardless of specific actions, however, nightclub owners have the opportunity (although, admittedly, not the responsibility) to provide a sober, entertaining nightlife for the under-21 crowd. If they are committed to providing entertainment for the Lexington area, including UK, and are at all interested in promoting healthy, safe nightlife options for adults under 21, they have the ability.

Chad Reese is a philosophy and political science junior. E-mail: opinions@kykernel.com.



CHAD REESE
Kernel columnist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Show Channel 50 in dining areas instead of mtvU

The student-run station Channel 50 should be shown to students in all of the dining halls on campus — mtvU, which is what is now being shown, is borderline dull. Yes, mtvU provides students with mild entertainment by playing music videos and other mindless pleasures over and over again, but this does nothing for the motivated student who wants to get out and become involved on campus.

Channel 50 will provide students with the news and information about campus events during one of the only times a busy student is free. Showing Channel 50 will give students a chance to see the news and activities going on around campus. If Channel 50 is shown in places on campus besides dorm rooms, it is possible more students will get involved on campus — and organization attendance and membership will rise accordingly.

Meissa McCann
Pre-journalism freshman

Coulter represents all that's wrong with our country

I'm not one to typically go after people for using their right to free speech however they want, but there are times when people cross the line. Some people happen to cross it just about every time they open their mouth.

Anyone who paid attention to the news earlier this month could probably guess that I am talking about Ann Coulter. A shock jock who is lionized by the hard-line unions, Democrats and minorities, she has a voice that is listened to by a percentage of the Republican Party — I'd go so far as to say more than Michael Moore is listened to by people in the Democratic Party. Well, she's at it again.

Speaking at the Conservative Political Action Committee, where many well-known conservatives, Republicans, and especially Republican candidates for president, Coul-

ter said, "I was going to have a few comments on the other Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards, but it turns out you have to go into rehab if you use the word 'faggot,' so I — so kind of an impane, can't really talk about Edwards."

Commandingly, John McCain, Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney all attacked her comments. Unfortunately, several other qualified candidates who were in attendance (unlike McCain) did not mention their disgust with Coulter's statements. Fortunately, CPAC did offer an apology for the comments that Coulter made.

There is a problem with that apology: She should not have been back after the stunt she pulled last year as well. She called Muslims "ragheads" during her speech to the convention in 2006. And in her book "How to Talk to a Liberal (If You Must)," she referred to Islam as "a car-burning cult."

I have lost all faith in this woman. I used to describe her as a counterpoint to Michael Moore — someone who goes off a gut-feeling and sometimes misdiagnoses the problems she has with society. However, I am now reevaluating that opinion. Michael Moore is not the Ann Coulter of the left, nor is Ann Coulter the Michael Moore of the right. Ann Coulter is far too offensive, disgusting, mean-spirited and ignorant to compare to Michael Moore. I am hard pressed to find any single person in this nation who is listened to as much as she is that also exemplifies those qualities anywhere near the degree that she does.

It is a shame that she has the following she does. I hope now, after this last instance, the CPAC has learned not to associate itself with this hateromger. I hope soon all the GOP candidates for president show their disgust for this woman. I've never seriously thought this before of any person, but it seems so true for this woman: Ann Coulter is everything that is wrong with America.

The only silver lining is what President Bill Clinton told us, and what President Franklin Roosevelt taught us. There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be fixed by what is right with America.

Joe Gallenstein
Political science sophomore

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Rubik's Cube isn't just for squares

By Jonathan Pinkerton
The Sacramento Bee

SACRAMENTO, Calif. ... Twist. Turn. Flip. Then throw across the room in frustration.

That's the typical approach to solving the Rubik's Cube, the baffling '80s toy that is hot again.

The Cube may be older than most college students, but it has found a new generation to challenge and frustrate.

Rubik's Cube sales have had double-digit growth over the past several years, according to Patricia Riso, a spokeswoman for Hasbro, the Cube's manufacturer.

Walk onto any school campus and you will find Cube experts such as 12-year-old Kyle Dickinson of Cameron Park, Calif., who explains the fascination this way:

"At first I thought it was impossible, but once I learned the steps I could do it," Kyle said in an e-mail to The Bee. "Eventually I started to memorize them and now I can solve a Rubik's Cube in 1 minute and 8 seconds. When people hear I can solve a Rubik's Cube that fast, they say, 'Prove it.'"

Robb Hecht, an adjunct marketing professor at New York's City's Baruch College, attributes the Rubik's Cube resurgence in part to the movies. Hecht thinks "The DaVinci Code," while not featuring a Rubik's Cube, inspired people to solve cryptic puzzles.

And in "The Pursuit of Happyness," the Rubik's Cube got a starring role next to Will Smith. Smith's character solved a Rubik's Cube in a matter of seconds. Smith's 8-year-old son and



MICHAEL A. JONES | SACRAMENTO BEE
Paul Telford, left, 30, Kyle Dickinson, 12, Jeremy Dixon, 18, and Jaka Jabbara, 14, with their Rubik's Cubes on March 12.

"Happy" co-star, Jaden, even brought a cube with him to the Oscars.

Erik Greene of Sacramento says "Happy" had a big impact — indirectly — on him. "I became interested in learning how to solve the Rubik's Cube after watching Will Smith solve it on the Oprah show in December," he said in an e-mail. "I purchased one cube for myself and began practicing, and shortly after starting to solve the cube, I purchased cubes for my co-workers and began showing them as well."

Not to mention, it's like announcing your IQ test scores to the world.

"The street smarts to solve the everyday toy are almost like getting a degree from a smart school," Hecht says. "People are impressed with the intellectual capability to solve that pattern."

Tyson's younger brother, Toby, set a record in 2006 by solving the Rubik's Cube in

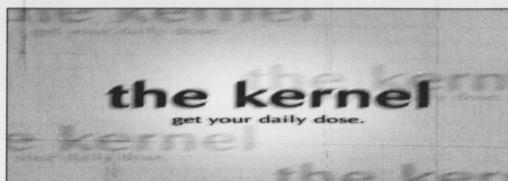
10.48 seconds, according to RecordHolders.org. The brothers actually taught Smith how to solve the cube in lightning speed for his role in "Happy."

"Will Smith was very nice and a very eager student," Tyson Mao says.

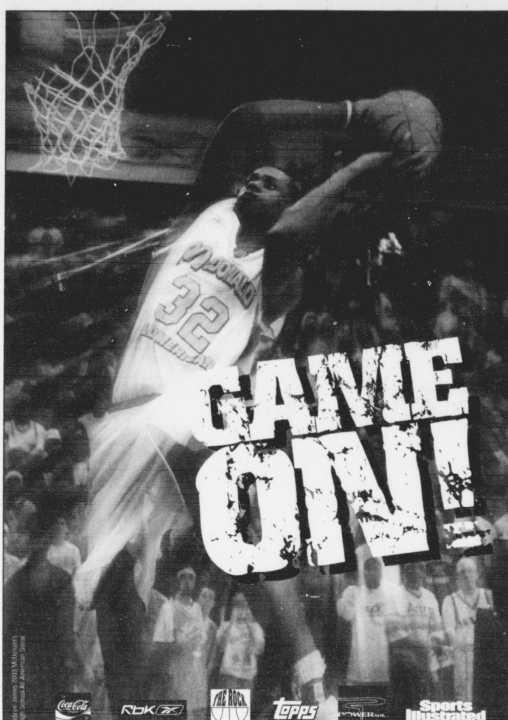
Freda Smith of Sutter Creek, Calif., sees something very philosophical in the Rubik's Cube, akin to "working with any complex and diverse group of people."

"As in real life, how quickly I can accomplish this depends on how messed up the situation is. Sometimes it is just a few twists and a twirl to see agreement with the diverse blocks. Sometimes it is a real challenge that takes more time and effort to accomplish," she said.

"The bottom line is that the Rubik's Cube is an endless array of possibilities that intrigue, perplex and ultimately satisfy the user."



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