

KENTUCKY KERNEL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

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UK's black enrollment highest ever

By Ali Cicerci
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UK's 2008 freshman class had the highest number of first-year black students in university history.

The number of first-year black students is 341 for the 2008-09 school year, up from 258 last year, according to figures released by the university Tuesday.

The total black undergraduate population is 1,628, about 8.6 percent of UK's 18,995 undergraduate students.

The black undergraduate population is about 1 percent higher than last year. For the 2007-08 school year, the number of black undergraduate students was 1,419, about 7.6 percent of the undergraduate

student population of 18,770.

In a presentation to the UK Board of Trustees Tuesday, UK President Lee Todd said he was "extremely pleased" with the report.

"It begins to affirm something we've been trying to do," he said. According to the figures released Tuesday for the 2008-09 school year, UK had:

n a record number of undergraduate applications this year, over 11,000, which is up 4.7 percent from last year.

n Hispanic enrollment increase by 17, to 61 people.

n a freshman class of 4,044 students, up from 3,865 last year.

n retention rates increase about 5 percent from the year before, to 81 percent.

Subbaswamy credits the higher retention rate, at least in part, to the university's "War on Student Attrition." The \$35 million program, started last fall by Todd and Subbaswamy, includes \$10 million to hire new faculty. It also involves hiring new advisers to intervene with students that are at risk for dropping out.

For this year, 11 new academic advisers have been added for first-year students, mandatory midterm grades implemented and the Academic Alert system established for faculty to report students "at-risk" students.

"Everyone from every college really rallied, and that is one reason for this turnaround," Subbaswamy said.

The board is an active but limited role in helping retain students, said Student Government President Tyler Montell.

"I think that there's a lot of things the university can do to keep students here to a point," Montell said. "But there are also lots of things out of our control, like how much a student has to work or their high school education."

While the improvement is good, Top 20 institutions have retention rates of 90 percent, Subbaswamy said.

"We are like bicyclists pedaling up a steep hill, we must not let up. We must keep pedaling," Subbaswamy said.

Former officer, UK settle lawsuit

By Jennifer Graham
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UK and Stephanie Bastin, former assistant police chief of UK Police, have reached a settlement regarding a 2-year-old lawsuit.

Bastin was seeking compensation for damages that occurred as a result of her termination. She also asked for punitive damages to be awarded to her, as well as money to cover legal costs.

Details of the settlement are confidential, according to UK spokeswoman Kathy Johnson.

The lawsuit was filed July 27, 2006, in the Fayette Circuit Court against the UK Board of Trustees and Ken Clevidence, then the associate vice president of campus services.

In the suit, Bastin accused Clevidence of ordering her to "coerce and/or compel" an officer in the UK Police Department to drop a citation she had issued to a UK administrator.

Bastin, currently police chief for Kentucky State University, could not be reached for comment. Bastin's lawyer, Robert Abell, could not be reached for comment as well.

The suit said for Bastin to

See **Bastin** on page 4

SELLING SUCCESS

On-field prosperity helps pull in star recruits for Cats

By Kenny Calston
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"Team First, Me Second."

Those words, white on a black background, line the halls of Louisville Central High School's locker room. Typical coach speak, the message is simple: don't be a hero; do what the team needs you to do above all else. But in the world of recruiting, that saying is blasphemy. Being seen by the top schools invites one philosophy: Me first.

In years past, recruiting by UK football hasn't been stellar when compared against the Southeastern Conference. The Cats were fortunate to sign a few decent players; anytime they landed a major recruit he was considered to be the Holy Grail.

Not anymore. So far, UK has commitments from one four-star quarterback, another five-star quarterback and two handfuls of three-star players. In all, UK has 20 commitments so far this year.

Offensive coordinator Joker Phillips, alongside recruiting coordinator and quarterbacks coach Randy Sanders, keep hearing their names pop up across recruiting Web sites across the Internet.

"We're starting to reap the benefits of two bowl wins," Sanders said. "Everyone was saying how our first bowl win would help recruiting and I said it will help a lot more in a year or two. No question that hard work and effort helps too."

That hard work is what brings Phillips to walk down that hallway to Central's locker room every spring where the white letters scream out from the black paint on the walls. The rise in Kentucky high school football has also coincided with the rise of UK in college football.

That's why you'll see Phillips talking to the latest Central defensive star, the next Corey Peters in waiting, trying to convince another hometown Louisville kid to defect 70 miles down the road. And lately, Phillips has been pretty convincing.

See **Recruiting** on page 10

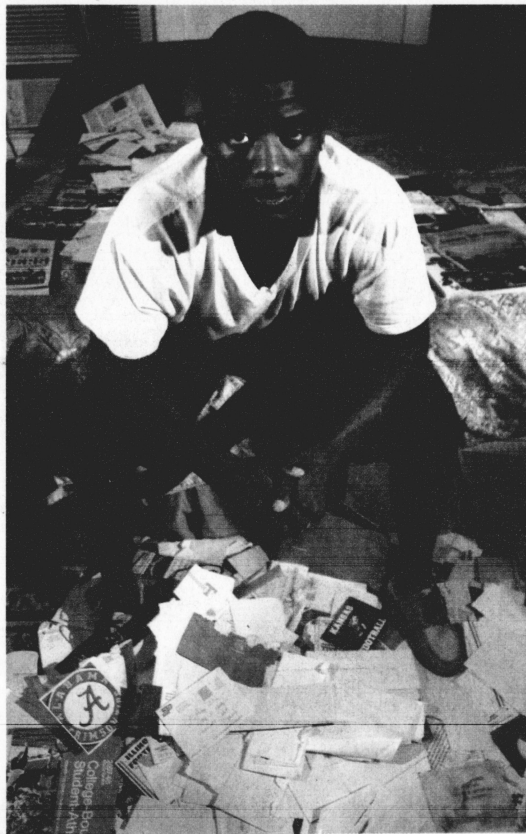


PHOTO BY ALLIE GARZA | STAFF
Louisville Central High School linebacker Ridge Wilson displays his pile of recruiting letters. Schools like Alabama, Kansas, Oklahoma and Auburn were recruiting Wilson until he committed to UK after the Louisville game.

SG to vote on new budget

By Kelli Long
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Student Government will open its first full session Wednesday with a decision on whether to approve the budget proposal created by its president.

SG President Tyler Montell and Vice President Grant Mills will submit their budget proposal Wednesday, which includes a check on how quickly the money being given to student organizations is spent.

The budget proposal includes \$40,000 of the \$100,000 allocated to student organizations to be given solely to the funding of spring semester projects.

"We want to make sure that projects held in the spring will be treated the same as those held in the fall," said Adam French, chairman of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee. "We feel like we are going to be able to make the budget

See **SG** on page 4

Ag rounds up a week of events

By Sabrina Houshell
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Guitar Hero, burger building and a volleyball tournament: maybe not what you'd expect from a roundup.

That's part of what students will get from this year's Ag Roundup, though. The four-day event that begins on Wednesday hosts more than 10 events that include everything from Thursday's Guitar Hero competition to a Saturday celebration that includes the UK band and cheerleaders.

All events will be in the field next to the ES Good Barn Building, directly across University Drive from Common-

wealth Stadium. Ag Roundup is an event that has been deemed a "family tradition," said Carrie Tilghman, an agricultural education junior.

"Roundup is what convinced me that UK would be my home for these four years when I was a prospective student," Tilghman said. "After I graduate I look forward to coming back as an alumni." On Thursday and Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Block and Bridle Club will be preparing and serving food.

"They have really good free food, not just pizza, but like steaks and roasted chicken - always a plus," said John Mains, a first-year graduate student.

Block and Bridle Club will also host the Build the Best Burger competition Thursday at 3:30 p.m. The winner of the competition receives \$100.

The annual fall event is one that brings everyone involved in the college to one place giving the opportunity to get to know other students and faculty in a more relaxed atmosphere.

"I really enjoy the fellowship that takes place during Roundup when students, staff, and alumni come together to share in food, fun and old stories," said Miranda Schack, an agriculture education junior. "It's really just a great way to start up a great school year."

Ag Roundup events

Thursday

What: Guitar Hero
When: Thursday through Saturday
Admission: Free

What: Faculty, staff and student picnics
When: 5:45 p.m.
Admission: Free to College of Agriculture students, \$5 for guests. Register with Student Services

What: Build the Best Burger competition
When: 3 p.m.
Admission: Free

All events will be held in the field next to the ES Good Barn Building

Saturday

What: UK cheerleaders and band do a presentation followed by a pep rally.
When: 5 p.m.
Admission: Free

What: Tractor Pull
When: 3 p.m.
Admission: Free



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4puz.com



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 a 6 — It takes discipline, enthusiasm and guts to advance. You have all that stuff. Now, figure out what you want to accomplish. It's a good time to push forward.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 9 — A dilemma is resolved through a great idea from a good and trustworthy friend. Talk it over with somebody who's already been there and done that.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 5 — Your partner is getting a lot better about making decisions. You might have noticed by now. If not, you will soon. This is a very good thing.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Accept an invitation to do something you've never tried before. It could be lunch at a new restaurant or a trip to Acapulco. Or both.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 6 — You need the money, so do the job and don't even complain. If you can get into it, maybe you'll have fun. It's certainly worth a try.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is an 8 — A partner provides the idea you're looking for to achieve your goal. So don't try to do it all by yourself. Share the load and make the job more fun.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 6 — You have what you need. Now if only you can find it. Ask a close family member to help. He or she may have moved it.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is an 8 — You're learning quickly and that's a good thing.

This game is very fast-paced. You can win with a combination of skill and good luck.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is an 8 — You'll have a chance to make more money now, which is always nice. Start your own business. Buy low, sell high.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — A plan you've been formulating is starting to take shape. It's like you're being released from a holding pattern. You'll accomplish amazing things in the next few weeks.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is a 6 — Luckily, you're in a pretty good mood. If you weren't, all this mucking around in messes could really get you down. Don't give up.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is an 8 — Your friends are numerous and supportive of your creative endeavors. You gotta love 'em for it.



Friction on Film Set

A source says -Hudson was "awful" to Hathaway

Turns out the catfights on the bride Wars set weren't all scripted. A source tells *Hot Stuff* that Kate Hudson made life hellish for Anne Hathaway last spring in NYC while they shot the movie (out January 9), in which they play BFFs who become enemies after they schedule their weddings for the same date.

"She was just awful to Anne," the insider says. "Kate would give Anne notes, and once she even snapped her fingers at Anne! Kate always needed to be the center of attention." But Hathaway, 25, kept her cool through the attacks from Hudson, 29.

"She never played into Kate's cattiness. When Kate would suggest something, she'd just say, 'Thanks! I had never thought of it that way,'" says the source.

Further fueling tension: Another insider tells *Us* Hathaway will appear on January's *Vogue* cover to promote the movie.

(*Vogue's* rep didn't return e-mails from *Us*.) Still, Hudson's rep denies the -actress has anything but fond feelings for her costar, telling *Us*, "She and Anne have always been good girlfriends and remain good girlfriends. This is ridiculous and couldn't be further from the truth."

BABY SEQUEL

Suri Cruise soon may be

a big sis. A source close to Tom Cruise, 46, tells *Hot Stuff* that he and wife Katie Holmes, 29, "have decided that Katie will get pregnant as soon as she can."

But when? After all, Holmes makes her Broadway debut October 16 in *All My Sons* - and will be on stage through January. Says the source, "That's not stopping them from preparing!"

HUGH'S HOT DATE

Does Hugh Grant have a new girl in his life? The actor, 48, showed up at an August 31 Evian-sponsored party in Water Mill, New York, with fashion designer Catherine Fulmer, 27 (who's worked with Salma Hayek and Lindsay Lohan). The twosome, who sipped Milagro tequila cocktails, "were touchy-feely and flirty," a witness tells *Hot Stuff*, adding, "They were getting lots of attention!"

DANCING'S NEXT STARS STEP IT UP

Dancing With the Stars' new rivals are raring to go. "I've already lost 5 pounds!" Lance Bass, 29, told *Hot Stuff* on August 30 at the Brother Jimmy's restaurant opening at the El San Juan Hotel in Puerto Rico.

And at the August 26 kickoff party for the ABC

show at L.A.'s One Sunset, Cloris Leachman, 82, was overheard saying she's competitive. Indeed, castmate Kim Kardashian, 27, tells *Us*, "Watch out for Cloris!"

VIP SCENE

Salma Hayek singing "Happy Birthday" in Spanish to a friend at club The Stark in L.A.

Lindsay Lohan jogging alone in Tompkins Square Park in NYC.

Luke Perry having brunch with a female companion at Fiddler's Bistro in Los Angeles.

Miley Cyrus and her mom, Tish, on a shopping spree at Beverly Hills -boutique -Harmony Lane, then heading to Intuition in L.A. for more chads.

Jennifer Lopez talking about -training for her triathlon at the Democratic -National Convention's Capitol File party in Denver.

Fergie and Natasha Bedingfield hanging out at the Pepsi Smash concert at the Wilma -theater in L.A.

Chris Brown shopping for -electronics at the Apple store at L.A.'s The Grove.

Ethan Hawke dining with his wife and baby at Cherry-stone's Clam and Lobster Shack in East Hampton, New York.

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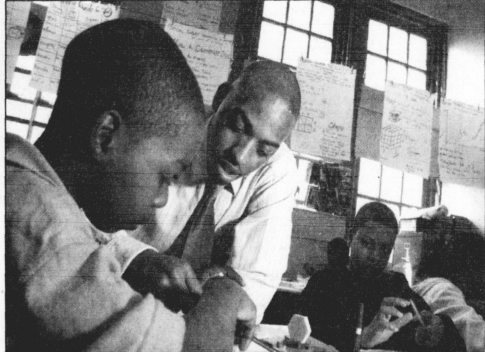
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NEWS BRIEF

Exhibit introduces new students to virtual world

Failing the final, backing up into the shiny red convertible, not saying "sorry" — sometimes you just need a do-over.

University of KY Island on Second Life provides a virtual trial run for students to interact and explore with less risk than real-life decisions. An event at 3 p.m. Wednesday will include island residents interacting in real-life to plan future island activities. The event is open to both veteran users and those who have never tried before.

"We encourage anyone who is slightly curious about Second

Life to stop by even for a few minutes to catch a glimpse of the next level of educational technology," said assistant exhibit curator Cheri Daniels.

Developers of Second Life started work in November 2007, and opened it to the public on March 2008. An exhibit opening Wednesday will highlight the spring and will be available on the island through the end of October. The Wednesday event will include information on significant builds from their first semester of operation.

BASTIN

Continued from page 1

coerce an officer to drop the citation would go against several state laws.

Cleveland has since retired from the university. Ernie Yamarella, a Board of Trustees member since June 2006, said he didn't want to give an opinion on the case against the board. Closure for the 2-year-old suit wasn't discussed among trustees at Tuesday's board meeting, he said.

"The settlement was not a subject brought up during today's committee meetings, luncheon or board meeting," Yamarella said.

SG

Continued from page 1

lasts throughout whole year."

The budget moved through the A & R Committee with few revisions last week, French said. Tonight's budget will most likely pass with few changes, French said.

"They presented a budget that was conservative," French said. "It's a good budget that really gets the most out of our money."

One of the few proposed changes that the A&R Committee made to Montell and Mills' proposal was adding \$300 to the elections fund, French said. The \$300 will be to make sure enough resources were distributed to the spring SG elections, he said.

Montell said he is pleased with the proposed changes made by the A&R Committee.

"Adam and the Appropriations and Revenue Committee have found better ways to distribute the money," Montell said. "If the system is broken, it's not doing anybody a service."

Wednesday's meeting will also feature the approval of the Presidential and Senate appointments, including the communications director and press secretary, Senate clerk and parliamentarian.

The Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council and National Pan-hellenic Council will be speaking briefly at the beginning of the meeting as the first of a series in hopes of familiarizing the Senate with different organizations over the course of the year.

The three were selected to be first because they represent the largest amounts of people, said Senate President Jackie Colgate.

Smaller organizations such as DanceBlue will be speaking at the meetings over the year, according to Colgate.

U.S. drivers look to what is in Argentina's tank: natural gas

By Tyler Bridges
McClatchy Newspapers

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Jorge Noguero pulled his black-and-yellow taxi up to the Shell fueling pump and then watched as an attendant attached a thin tube to his engine to fill his tank — with natural gas.

"I get a good performance, and it's 70 percent cheaper than gasoline," Noguero said, explaining why he converted his taxi to use natural gas.

More vehicles run on natural gas in Argentina than anywhere else in the world, and that success is attracting a burst of interest from the U.S., where a big push is under way to convert buses, taxis and cars to natural gas.

Representatives of American companies are flocking to Argentina to buy natural-gas compressors, conversion kits and fuel tanks to sell in the U.S., said Alessandro Carlo, president of Tomasetto Achille, a major Argentine maker of these products, based in Buenos Aires.

Others from the U.S. are heading south to gain technical know-how.

"We have someone visiting from the U.S. every week," Carlo said. "We're the pioneers."

Many drivers in the U.S. are clamoring to fill up with natural gas because it's about \$1.50 cheaper a gallon on average than gasoline, according to industry figures.

Others favor natural gas because it produces about 20 percent less greenhouse emissions. And some see natural gas as a way to reduce U.S. dependency on imported oil.

Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens is receiving attention for his plan to have a third of American vehicles using natural gas in 10 years.

In the meantime, Honda Motor Co. is doubling production of the only passenger car sold in the U.S. that runs on natural gas — but only 2,000 vehicles.

"There has never been a time in the United States where everything lined up for the growth of natural-gas vehicles like now," said Rich Kolodziej, the Washington-based president of the International Association of Natural Gas Vehicles.

Galileo, also based in Buenos Aires, is one of the major Argentine producers cashing in on the favorable circumstances.

"We're dedicating our efforts now to sell to the U.S.," said Fausto Marano, Galileo's president. "We see a lot of Americans at trade expositions in South America. We're more advanced than the United States' companies."

Argentina's success began with a decision by the government in the early 1980s to keep natural-gas prices arti-



Taxi driver Jorge Noguero waits to install the GNC gas conversion equipment in his new car. "I get a good performance, and it's 70 percent cheaper than gasoline," said Noguero, in explaining why he converted his taxi to use natural gas.

cially low — something the U.S. is unlikely to try.

The Argentine government also made it easier for service stations to install the equipment needed to fuel vehicles and created a special program for several hundred taxis in Buenos Aires to convert to natural gas.

The U.S. seems to be moving in this direction, albeit slowly. Bills in Congress would create incentives to encourage consumers to buy more natural-gas-driven cars, for service-station owners to install natural-gas pumps and for manufacturers to build more natural-gas cars.

"You have to make it clear that it's a long-term policy, that the price will be cheaper for the long term," said Sylvie D'Apote, a Rio-based associate director for Cambridge Energy Research Associates, a private consulting company.

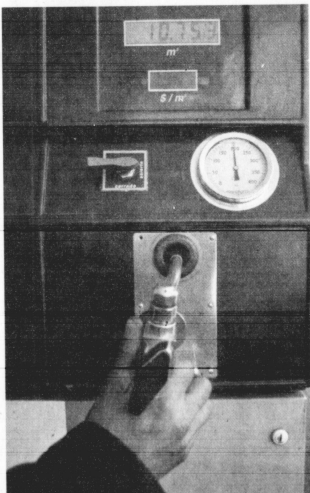
Argentina's government made the push in favor of natural gas because the country had an abundance of the fuel while diesel supplies were dwindling.

As Buenos Aires taxi drivers spread word of the savings by using natural gas, car owners began to convert their vehicles. This prompted service stations to begin making the investment to offer natural gas.

Today, about 1.7 million vehicles run on natural gas in Argentina, or about 15 percent of all Argentine vehicles. By contrast, less than 1 percent of vehicles in the U.S. run on natural gas.

Other countries worldwide are converting to natural gas at a much faster rate, led by Pakistan and Brazil. South America, Bolivia, Venezuela and Peru are also making major pushes.

"It's worked out great," said Silvestre Prado, a Lima



Filling a gas tank with natural gas is a similar process to filling it with fuel. The pump station employee connects a hose to the motor to inject the gas at 200 BAR pressure.

taxi driver. He paid \$1,500 to convert his car and figures that he'll recoup the investment in 18 months through fuel savings.

There are drawbacks: The cylindrical tank that holds the natural gas takes up about half his trunk. Prado has to stop to fill his tank with natural gas every 70 miles, or about twice as often as when he uses gasoline.

Like other converted vehicles, his taxi contains a switch below the dashboard that allows him to fuel it with gasoline if natural gas is un-

available, as happened during a brief spell a year ago.

Mauro Nieto is owner of Movil Gas, a Buenos Aires car shop that converts vehicles to natural gas. Nieto said he converts about four vehicles per day.

"We have a lot of work now," Nieto said.

So do Argentine equipment makers. Tomasetto Achille sells the conversion kits in 35 countries around the world.

"Argentina is the world laboratory for natural gas," Carlo said.

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from Sept. 2 to Sept. 8

- | | | | |
|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| Sept. 2 | Purse reported stolen from the UK Outpatient Psychiatry building at 1:09 p.m. | Sept. 6 | Disorder reported on the tennis courts on Cooper Drive at 4:21 p.m. |
| Sept. 3 | Laptop reported stolen from W.T. Young Library at 10:31 p.m. | Sept. 7 | Sexual assault reported at Kirvain Tower at 2:16 a.m. |
| Sept. 3 | Arrest on Euclid Avenue and Linden Walk at 11:44 p.m. | Sept. 7 | Marijuana use reported on Huguleit Avenue and Rose Street at 4:13 a.m. |
| Sept. 4 | Car window reported broken and \$400 in cash reported stolen in the K Lot at 10:05 p.m. | Sept. 7 | Arrest made in the Blue Lot of a male subject with blood on him at 9:35 p.m. |
| Sept. 4 | Two wallets reported stolen at Holmes Hall at 10:13 p.m. | Sept. 7 | Parking signs reported stolen at Parking Structure No. 6 at 10:37 p.m. |
| Sept. 5 | Alcohol intoxication arrest at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house at 12:09 a.m. | Sept. 8 | Wallet reported stolen on Euclid Avenue at 5:52 p.m. |
| Sept. 5 | Arrest of a subject refusing to leave the Bernard Johnson Student Recreational Center at 7:24 a.m. | Sept. 8 | Stolen medication from patients reported at UK Hospital at 6:11 p.m. |
| Sept. 5 | Theft reported on South Limestone at 1:57 p.m. | Sept. 8 | 2005 Mazda 6 reported stolen at Ingles Hall at 10:40 p.m. |
| Sept. 5 | Stolen clothing reported from a laundry mat at Greg Page Apartments at 7:35 p.m. | Sept. 8 | Male subject reported yelling at passing females at Keeneland Hall at 10:43 p.m. |
| Sept. 5 | Parking permit reported stolen at | | |

Compiled from reports at UK Police Department.

Compiled by staff writer Katie Saltz.
E-mail ksaltz@kykernel.com.

Saturday updates during and after the game:
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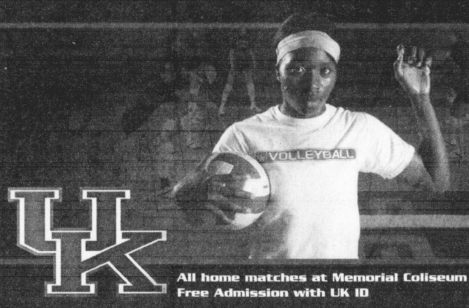
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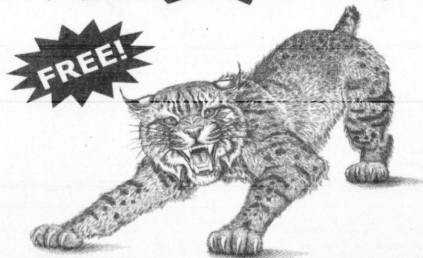
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Queen starting to reign over UK opponents

By Metz Camfield
metzcamfield@kykernel.com

When you hear a scream at a UK women's volleyball game, you can expect a point for the Cats (5-2). That scream you hear is coming from middle blocker Queen Nzenwa and it's signifying a thunderous spike in on its way.

"It's just the emotion of the game," Nzenwa said. "It kind of gets everyone hyped too, but it does intimidate the other team which is why I do it. I kind of feel like it's just letting them (the other team) know that something is coming but they can't stop it."

It's not just the fans that get a sense of excitement with Nzenwa's play, though. Junior setter, Sarah Rumely, loves having a "high energy individual" like Nzenwa on the court to set the ball to.

"It's something that you would always want as a setter," Rumely said. "If you don't have a player like that on your team you're going to be in some real binds. If we're struggling in a situation, I know that there's always that option that she's going to get us out of any situation that we're put in."

Nzenwa, the career block leader at UK with 491, wasn't always a volleyball

star. Nzenwa wanted to play volleyball her junior year in high school but wasn't sure if she could play. She tried out her senior year, however, and played club volleyball in addition to high school. Nzenwa ended up flourishing, but 6'2 Baltimore native excelled in everything. Nzenwa was the most valuable player of her high school basketball team. She also dominated track at Kenwood High School, where she was a four-time MVP, and won the Baltimore County high jump record every year.

"I knew that I was coming to Kentucky for volleyball, definitely," Nzenwa said. "But I would have loved to have played basketball and high jumped."

"But volleyball is a full-time sport, you play it all year round, you have two different seasons and you're working out. It would have been fun and a blast to do that, but it would have been exhausting too."

In the University of Maryland Tournament last weekend, Nzenwa was right back at it, earning tournament MVP honors, along with helping lead the Cats to a first-place finish. Admittedly, playing in front of a crowd just outside of her hometown gave Nzenwa an additional spark.

"It was just great playing in front of my family and friends," Nzenwa said. "Those two wins (over Missouri and Maryland) brought the team together, because we just know that we're playing to our potential now. We stepped it up, we stepped up our game, and everybody on the team just stepped up."

UK head coach Craig Skinner agreed and believes the ability for Nzenwa to embrace the role of being a leader on this team helped give the Cats a win against some good competition.

"I think she's finally embracing the role of being a senior and being a leader," Skinner said. "She's really blossomed so far in this preseason and I think that showed up this past week."

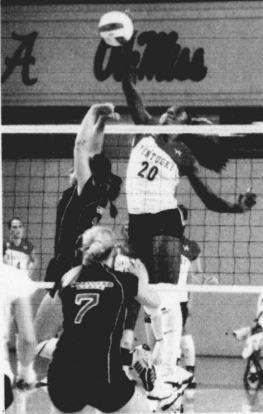
CRAIG SKINNER
Head Coach

With the season only

seven games old, only so much can be taken away. One thing that can be taken away, however, is the role that Nzenwa has played in the development of the other players on the team, thus far.

"We haven't seen the best of Queen yet," Skinner said. "But she's brought out the best in other people because she draws so much attention to her, that other people are getting a lot of kills and hitting for high percentages. But when we need her, she's produced for us at the end of some games, so she's played very well."

With the season only



Senior middle-blocker Queen Nzenwa looks to kill the ball against Morehead State earlier this year. Nzenwa was key to UK's recent tournament victory.

PHOTO BY
ALLIE
GARZA
STAFF

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Where: Memorial Coliseum
Admission: Free with student ID, \$5 general public

East Carolina's Holtz eyes how to handle hoopla

By A.J. Carr
McClatchy Newspapers

GREENVILLE, N.C. — In the midst of East Carolina's sudden rise to a No. 14 national ranking, football coach Skip Holtz wants to make sure the Pirates don't experience a demise.

Already this weekend, in the euphoric aftermath of Saturday's "near-perfect game" that resulted in a 24-3 victory over then-No. 8 West Virginia, Holtz got on the phone and talked with other coaches who have previously upended the Bowl Championship Series hierarchy.

ECU, with its two wins to open the season over ranked opponents, plays in the non-BCS Conference USA, which has no automatic tie-in with a marquee end-of-season bowl game. The Pirates essentially need to finish in the top 12 to get an invitation to, say, the Orange, Sugar or Fiesta bowls.

Holtz said in an interview Monday that he has reached out to coaches Chris Petersen at Boise State, Pat Hill at Fresno State and SMU's June Jones, formerly of Hawaii.

He also talked with Florida's Urban Meyer about his days at Utah.

Each of those coaches has been in a situation similar to what Holtz is experiencing now.

Holtz said he was picking their brains to find how they handled winning and the surrounding hoopla, and what "key phrases" they used in talking to their players to keep them focused.

With the 2-0 start against heavyweights, the Pirates were quickly featured in national publications such as The New York Times and USA Today.

After Saturday's game, Holtz had 107 text messages. By noon Monday, there were 218 e-mails on his computer. His voice mail was full.

All with congratulations. "Fresno State was 8-0 (one year), fell off at the end

and didn't win their conference championship," Holtz said.

He said he wanted to know, "What would you do differently? What did you learn from it?"

"I'm trying to learn from their success ... get different ideas," Holtz said. Holtz wouldn't reveal what the others told him, but he said he will study their suggestions and select what is best suited for his Pirates.

He also spoke with his famous father and coaching icon, Lou Holtz, who told him it is what East Carolina does moving forward that matters now.

The Pirates are scheduled to open Conference USA action Saturday at Tulane, though Hurricane Ike could force a change in venue.

Wherever the game is held, the Pirates will be in a role reversal after beating Virginia Tech and WVU. Now they are the team wearing the big target.

Holtz described the excitement here as a "circus" atmosphere, which is what he wants and what he wants for his team.

"I embrace it, I love it and it's a great experience for our players," Holtz said. "Welcome to big-time college football."

On Monday, he praised his offense, defense, special teams and the fans for coming a "12th man" that created an electrifying game atmosphere.

But Holtz stressed his team must play at the same emotional level as in the first two games, noting that Tulane held Alabama to 172 yards total offense in a 20-6 loss.

If the Pirates do maintain their intensity and concentration, they could remain high in the polls, maybe go to a big bowl, do something extraordinary.

And if that do all that, other coaches might be calling Holtz for advice.

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Top-10 most overrated in hip-hop

Reading The Smoking Section's critique of Blender Magazine's "The 33 Most Overrated



LANDON ANTONETTI
Kernel columnist

TSS crew and decided to shorten it up, and turn it into a hip-hop only affair. Ladies and gentlemen: The 10 Most Overrated People, Trends and Other Junk in Hip-hop.

10. Rapping about your car and/or jewels

Tasteful boasting has always been apart of hip-hop. Run DMC did a track called "My Adidas" and Kool G Rap & DJ Polo did a song about cars and they were dope. When your entire record consists of you rapping about your diamond-encrusted Mickey Mouse pendant, or your Hummer on '38's then please don't bother sending your stuff my way. We're in a recession, how is Lil' Jon still holding on to that "Crunk Ain't Dead" piece?

9. DJ Khaled

The day when I don't have to hear DJ Khaled scream "We the best!" over a track will not come soon enough. Coming from a man who only produced a total of five, five songs, for both of his albums combined, this

is a false statement.

8. Gripping about the mainstream

I hate classifying hip-hop as underground or mainstream. There's only hip-hop for the educated and hip-hop for the ignorant, you either know or you don't. So many great MC's spend their time crying about how messed up the "mainstream" is, and it makes me sick to see talent wasted on a subject so cliché. Rap about gas prices or the election, there's a lot more interesting stuff to be said other than why you aren't making any money and Lil' Wayne is.

7. Bringing back the old school

No matter how much we wish it was 1996 again, it's not. That time has come and gone. Relevance is the most important thing to surviving in the rap game. Spending all your time and money trying to recreate a DJ Premier beat is not a good look. By the time you do it, some dope MC/Producer that is relevant to TODAY will have already taken your shine. (Note: Don't confuse this with paying respect to the old school, that's encouraged, but when your career is based around bringing back an era, then you've already messed up. Get out.)

6. MF Doom

This cat was like cool back in the day but ever since "Madvillainy," I really quit feeling him. Maybe it was the fact that his lyrics began to puddle into pure nonsense, or the fact that he doesn't show up to his concerts anymore.

Either way, in 2008, this dude is way overrated, especially since he hasn't put out an album since 2005.

5. Tight Jeans

Let's face it, if your favorite rapper wears jeans off the women's rack at JC Penney's then he shouldn't be rapping. He should be the lead singer of your favorite emo band instead.

4. Rapper Cameos

If it takes an LL Cool J cameo to get me to see your movie, then the only thing I recommend you is a straight to DVD release. Very few acts in the rap game have the talent to master the silver screen so please, quit giving everyone in the game false hopes that they can be an Oscar winner.

3. Ring Tones

This one is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, you can tell if someone likes great music, on the other hand, you can tell if someone likes horrible music. If you meet a girl you're really connecting with at a party and "Crunk That" starts blaring

out of her purse, run away.

2. T-Pain

Aside from the fact that the vocoder hasn't been cool since Zapp & Roger, T-Pain is just one of those dudes you grow tired of easily. Most T-Pain hooks are whack to me, save the one on Kanye's "Good Life," but I digress. If I could doctor my voice with studio effects and spout the same stuff over every mediocre rapper's track, then I wouldn't be sitting on my futon drinking cheap beer. I'd be drinking Cristal with Jay-Z and Beyonce at the 40/40 club.

1. Lil' Wayne

I can foresee getting a lot of grief for this one. Let me start by saying Wayne is good, but he's nowhere near his prime. If I have to argue with one more person about how Weezy is not the best rapper alive, then I might lose it. People forget that Rakim is still alive and recording. Educate yourself.

Landon Antonetti is a journalism junior and the production director for WKFL.

Correction

In the Landon Antonetti column entitled "LAX" needs a prescription by Dr. Dre," in reference to the song "Angel" a sentence incorrectly read: "... heavily Jill Scott-sampled 'Angel' ...". The sentence should have read: "... heavily Jill Scott-sampled 'Angel' ...". Jill Scott is an American R&B singer-songwriter, poet and actress. Gil Scott-Heron is an American musician, poet and author that gained notoriety during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

To report an error, call the Kentucky Kernel at 257-1915 or e-mail editor@kykernel.com.

Comedian gears comedy toward students

By Kelly Wiley
features@kykernel.com

Performing comedy in front of a bunch of drunk people in a small Po-dunk town is a lot different than performing in front of college students.

But comedian Keith McGill tends to gravitate towards the younger, more sober generation because they understand his comedy.

"I really like college artisans because they are really smart and they know about pop culture, so they know what I'm talking about," McGill said.

McGill said like every other comedian he was the class clown and liked to joke around with his buddies. At that time he had been to a few comedy clubs, and he soon realized that people get paid for making jokes so he took a

stab at it.

The Comedy Caravan in Louisville, originally called The Funny Farm, was having an open mic night with a \$50 prize for the funniest person. McGill got a few laughs but did not win.

"I wasn't as funny as I thought I was," McGill said.

After that night, McGill said he found his calling. He has worked at Kinko's and Borders, but he said he will never do that again.

"My first paid show was at The Funny Farm. Someone paid me to do comedy and I had 10 minutes of working material, and I had to stretch to get to 10 minutes," McGill said.

McGill feels that college students understand him best because they keep up with the pop culture world. If they

wanted to hear political comedy they could just turn on CNN.

Some of McGill's comedy has been featured on "Comic View" on Black Entertainment Television, and "Mabe in America," with comedian Tom Mabe on Country Music Television. McGill said he has also dabbled in acting.

McGill believes students will understand his comedy because it is geared toward them and uses experiences they can understand.

"These are observations that everyone can relate to," McGill said. "I am not talking down to you or insulting anyone's intelligence."

McGill said his goal is to just get a laugh out of the students. He will perform for free Wednesday night at 8 in the Cats Den.

Michigan entrepreneur breathes new life into a dead business

Sarah A. Webster
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — At 28, St. Clair, Mich., resident and Internet entrepreneur — known around town as "Joey" — stands out in the tidy, riverside community where he's founded several dotcoms. They include FuneralOne, which brought in \$2.8 million last year selling Disney-esque memorial video software and other services.

Aside from his stealthy black Mercedes, hip black clothes and spiky blond hair, Joachim's can-do energy is striking against the easygoing backdrop of St. Clair, where flags flap in the wind and white picket fences abound.

Joachim (pronounced YAHK-em) talks fast. He rarely sits still. He buzzes with new ideas.

"You never would have thought I would have ended up in the funeral business," Joachim readily admitted during an interview at his office, where three flat-screen monitors are lined up across his desk.

Joachim's growing enterprise — which also includes an online counseling Web site, a business that helps owners of distressed properties and a new line of beauty products — is located in the same historic home where Joachim grew up learning about his father's real estate business.



PHOTO BY PATRICIA BECK / DETROIT FREE PRESS
Joey Joachim, president, CEO and founder of FuneralOne, demonstrated how a Vidstone D solar powered LCD video player mountable on tombstones and mausoleums could be used on a monument in St. Clair, Mich., Thursday, Aug. 7.

That Coldwell Banker franchise, run by H. Joseph Joachim III, is still in operation, though it's been suffering along with Michigan's abysmal housing market.

Despite that, the mood inside is lively, not glum. Dance music thumps in the background. Young adults in jeans sit at desks scattered throughout the second floor. The young Joachim's desk is cluttered with projects.

Over the past five years, Joachim, a college dropout, has helped revolutionize the stuffy funeral business with software that helps funeral directors create high-quality videos that celebrate someone's life in grand, heartfelt fashion.

The first version of the software, launched in 2004,

was called "Easy Tribute."

Basically, a funeral director uses the software to upload personal photos of a client, select their profession or hobby, add a few additional details, such as the date of birth and death, or the names of children.

Then, the software produces an emotional memorial video. Animated birds peacefully fly by scenic landscapes. The musical scores are symphonic. And, most importantly, the product feels deeply personal.

"We've got themes for virtually anything," Joachim said.

The videos are then shown during visitation.

Every time a funeral uses the software for a new client, Joachim receives \$20, and it's safe to say that business

has been good.

"We're not hurt by the downturn in the economy," Joachim said.

By last year, Joachim said he had amassed about 5,000 funeral home clients.

That is about one-fourth of the 21,000 funeral homes nationwide that conduct an average of 187 services per year, according to the National Funeral Directors Association.

"I lived and breathed this thing 15 hours a day, seven days a week," said Joachim, who hasn't taken on any debt to build the company. "I've put every dollar I've made back into the business."

Now, Joachim's expecting his FuneralOne business to explode, to an estimated \$10 million this year, and he's eagerly seeking talented leaders to help him manage the growth.

In July, FuneralOne launched the next generation of its video software, called "Life Tributes," which represents a sizable strategic move in Joachim's plan to expand his enterprise through www.LifeTributes.com.

The new software, which was featured on the latest cover of the trade magazine "Funeral Business Advisor," offers improvements to the personalized memorial videos, which can now be burned to DVDs for guests, and will help create accompanying printed materials, such as prayer cards.

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Arctic ice, polar bear habitats shrinking due to global warming

By Renee Schoof
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — This year will see the second-highest loss on record of Arctic sea ice — a sign that the area of ice coverage is shrinking at a pace faster than once expected.

The trend also suggests that global warming is likely to increase, polar bear habitat will decline, and previously icebound areas could be opened to oil and gas exploration.

Mark Serreze, a senior scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center, said Tuesday that the sea-ice minimum, which will be reached later this month, won't hit last year's record because the amount of daylight is decreasing in the Arctic and a new freeze is beginning.

But the minimum amount of ice at summer's end this year will be near last year's total. In 2007, the extent of Arctic ice was 23 percent lower than the previous record in 2005. That 2007 total, which set a record, was 1.65 million square miles. As of Monday, satellite observations showed 1.78 million square miles.

Arctic sea ice is important because it reflects most sunlight, keeping polar regions cool and producing a cooling effect at lower latitudes. Open water, in contrast, absorbs the sun's energy, and the warm ocean waters mean more ice melting, the National Snow and Ice Data Center says.

If ice is lost, more sun is absorbed, and heat from the ocean is released back to the atmosphere, Serreze said.

The understanding of the impacts of these changes is still in its infancy, Serreze said.

The center's measurements show the ice has declined dramatically during the past 30 years.

"The real issue is, what's the long-term trend — and it's negative," Serreze said. He said summer could be ice-free in the Arctic by 2030. Some scientists give it just another decade.

Two years of extreme ice minimums indicate that the low in 2007 wasn't random, said James Overland, a scientist who researches the arctic climate at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The cause of the ice loss is a combination of global warming from an increase of greenhouse gases and natural variations — winds that brought warm temperatures and blew ice to the Atlantic

side, Overland said. If the cause was global warming alone, most scientists thought they wouldn't see this kind of ice loss for 30 years, he said.

This summer conditions were more normal in the Arctic, but the ice was thinner to begin with.

"The question was, would the new ice last through the summer — and it did not," Overland said.

The relationship between ice and ocean conditions will make it hard for sea ice to return to what it was before, he said. Instead, the long-term trend will be decline in ice cover.

Two years ago, scientists didn't foresee major sea ice loss until 2050, but because of a combination of factors, "we're on a fast track," Overland said.

Ignatius G. Rigor, a scientist who researches Arctic sea ice and the atmosphere at the Polar Ice Center at the University of Washington, said he still thinks there's a chance this year's minimum will hit a new low.

Rigor said greenhouse gases from fossil fuels are changing the climate, bringing warmer temperatures and changes in weather patterns over the long term.

Arctic sea ice is far below the average in the 1980s and before, and has been declining since about the 1970s, Rigor said. The ice retreat coincides with increasing temperatures around the globe.

Like Overland, Rigor said the changes in Arctic sea ice are from a combination of global warming and natural changes — winds, high pressure and higher temperatures. The bottom line, he said, is that temperatures are important, but variations in wind are also part of the equation.

Overland was one of the government scientists who determined that the polar bear should be listed as an endangered species because global warming would reduce sea ice by 2050.

In the past two years, polar bears north of Alaska and Siberia have had "a very difficult time," and that will continue for the foreseeable future, he said.

Sea ice habitat will decline to 20 percent of what it was 20 years ago, Overland said. When that will happen isn't known, but 2030 is a reasonable projection, he added.

Overland also said that declining ice also speeds up the prospects of oil exploration in northern Alaska, Canada and Siberia.

Apple underwhelms with new iPod, a few upgrades

By Eric Benderoff
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Here's what Apple announced Tuesday: a new iPod Nano and a fresh scheme to sell you more songs.

The rest is just fancy packaging wrapped around window dressing. Oh, and Apple's God-like CEO Steve Jobs assured us he wasn't about to leave this Earth.

Apple did cut prices and added storage capacity on some models, but refreshing the product line has been happening on a fairly regular basis since the iPod was first launched in 2001.

The new Nano looks nice but I liked the previous model, which everyone called the "fatty" because of its squat shape. Now Apple has gone back to its origins with the Nano and delivered a taller and thinner device.

This year's new iPod news was not nearly as interesting as 2007's, when the iPod Touch was introduced.

Here's what's new:

A software update for the iPhone. Jobs said the iPhone 2.1 software will address some nagging problems, such as crashes and a battery that drains faster than a bathtub. It will be available for download on Friday.

New headphones. No, not replacements for the ones that ship with the iPod (keep dreaming) but in-ear models, priced at \$79, that will compete with higher-end models from a slew of other makers. I've said it often that the best way to improve the sound of an MP3 player is to spend a little on headphones; I'll let you know how Apple's

offering compares to others. They will be available soon.

Updated Touch. It's thinner and comes with built-in volume controls, not just touch controls for the music. That's a likely improvement, as is including a built-in speaker. Otherwise, it's a touchscreen device that looks the same.

Three versions are offered: 8GB for \$229, 16GB for \$299, and 32GB for \$399. The memory is the same but the prices are \$100 less. Again, this pricing strategy is typical for Apple: cut prices while offering a few more features.

Classic. Apple discontinued the 160 GB and 80 GB Class iPod, and instead will offer only the 120 GB version for \$249.

Genius. Here's the money scheme. Genius is a feature built into the new iTunes 8 software, available now. The good: Genius creates playlists based on songs in your music library "that go great together," Apple says. The bad: It will recommend similar songs you may purchase on iTunes.

I love these so-called preference engines, where the software learns what music you like. Check out Pandora.com for a great — and free — example. But I don't like the shilling to buy new music. I admit, though, I'm anxious to try Genius to see how Apple determines the songs "that go great together."

The new Nano. The most important bit, of course, is that it comes in nine "vibrant" colors as Apple seeks to reinforce its relevance among high school girls. Long and thin, like the first two versions of the Nano, the "4th generation" model features curved aluminum and glass. It has a 2-inch display and is

Apple's thinnest iPod to date.

An added feature is the accelerometer. That's used on the iPhone and Touch, and that bit of technology helps the device understand its orientation, such as horizontal or vertical. Movies and other features — there will certainly be games — will adjust accordingly. Also, the accelerometer will automatically shuffle songs when the device is shaken. Cool. It's on sale now for \$149 (8 GB) or \$199 (16 GB). The "fatty," which has been discontinued, came in two models, 4 GB and 8 GB for the same pricing.

Then there was Jobs' health issues. In June, while introducing the new iPhone, Jobs appeared "gaunt," according to one report, and helped spark a sell-off in Apple shares. Jobs is a cancer survivor and did look thin Tuesday, despite being his usual energetic self.

He acknowledged those concerns and rumors during his presentation. "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated," flashed on a screen behind Jobs. That was a job at a pre-written obituary accidentally posted by a wire service recently. After taking the stage, Jobs added, "Enough said," according to reports.

Later, Jobs told CNBC that "I'm doing just fine; I'm healthy," yet added he could "stand to gain 10 or 15 pounds."

We sometimes joke about Jobs and his bigger-than-life personality, but there are few people in American business as interesting. We wish Jobs many more entertaining, and sometimes less interesting, days in front of a big crowd showing off his shiny new gadgets.

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Bush: Iraq becoming capable of finishing the job and winning the fight

By Nancy A. Youssef and Jonathan S. Landay
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President Bush's announcement Tuesday that he'll maintain troop levels in Iraq through the end of his presidency suggests that despite his claim that the surge of additional U.S. troops in Iraq has succeeded, the security gains could be temporary, defense officials and experts said.

"Here is the bottom line: While the enemy in Iraq is still dangerous, we have seized the offensive, and the Iraqi forces are becoming increasingly capable of leading an winning the fight," Bush said Tuesday in a speech before the National Defense University.

Bush, however, announced that he'll order only 8,000 more combat troops to leave Iraq by February, the month after his presidency ends, reducing the number there to about 138,000.

A Marine battalion and an Army brigade combat team from the Army's 10th Mountain Division that had been scheduled to deploy to Iraq will go to Afghanistan instead, Bush said.

U.S. defense officials said the president's decision to withdraw only 8,000 soldiers from Iraq reflects a persistent concern among top commanders that the improvements in security could be temporary and that renewed violence could erupt. Officials fear that Iran might reactivate the Shiite Muslim militias it has armed and trained and that the Sunni group al-Qaida in Iraq is trying to re-establish itself in Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city.

Ret. Army Lt. Col. John Nagl, who helped craft the military's new counterinsurgency doctrine with Iraq commander Gen. David Petraeus, said that while the drawdown is small, the U.S. is winning — but withdrawing too soon could undermine that success.

"The security gains are real and tangible but fragile," said Nagl, who visited Iraq last month. "If you declare victory too soon, whether in a province or the whole country, al-Qaida can come back. And it is a whole lot less work and a whole lot less blood spilled keeping them out once you have cleared an area than it is pulling out prematurely and then having to go back and clear them out again."

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OPINIONS

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The opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's assigned editorials 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.

■ KERNEL EDITORIALS

Inconvenient potholes need permanent fix

It's about time. After several excruciatingly irritating months of driving over what can only be described as "car-eating potholes," the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government is finally going to fix the nearly 20-foot rough patch of potholes on Avenue of Champions in front of Papa John's.

The section of roadway has been worn down in recent years because of heavy and repetitive traffic loads, according to a Kernel article Friday, but the stretch has become increasingly worse since last winter.

That has forced the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's hand, and as a result, they will patch the road Oct. 4, weather permitting and if they can get the blacktop.

This plan, of course, sounds like great news to the thousands of drivers who repeatedly must drive over the landmines, and to the bikers dodging cars that are dodging the potholes, but there appears to be several potholes in the plan itself.

Simply putting a patch over the potholes is not going to solve the problem. It might be a quick fix, but it's been done in the past, according to the Kernel article. Those quick fixes haven't lasted long, and the potholes quickly re-appear, bigger and more menacing than ever. Not to mention the cost of the repairs have to build up over time.

Instead of just patching the holes, the cabinet needs to completely resurface the road. Otherwise, another brutal winter and excessive traffic flow are going to tear the roadway up again, and we'll be talking about the same problem all over again next year.

We commend the cabinet's plan of action to take care of a nagging problem, but the idea of temporary patchwork is about as misplaced of an idea as former Student Government President Nick Phelps' sarcastic proposal to fill them with Qdoba burritos. Obviously, neither of them are going to work.

Instead, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet needs to bite the bullet, come up with the cash and do the permanent fix of resurfacing the entire road. The "man-eating" potholes will chew up anything less.

Test-taking cameras will ensure integrity

It's not that students can't be trusted, but they all need to be held to the same standards.

Online classes offer a unique experience and can be beneficial for someone who has difficulty getting to campus, or just doesn't perform well in a classroom setting. They are one of many wonderful things to evolve from the Internet.

But anyone who is ever taken an online class can't say they haven't bent the rules, or at least thought about it. The amount of accountability for someone sitting at home in front of his or her computer is astronomically lower than for someone sitting in front of a professor in a classroom.

If left unsupervised, the possibilities for cheating are rampant for someone taking an online class. Sure, most exams are timed. But there is nothing stopping a student from using his timer or her book or notes while taking the exam. This gives students taking online classes unfair advantages, and it hurts those who must do their own work under the watchful eye of a professor.

The Kernel reported last week that Penn State has taken the steps to make sure that students taking online classes don't abuse the system. By using Web cameras and a keyboard biometric reader, students will surely be less inclined to cheat on exams, quizzes and homework.

Again, this is not a knock on the ethics of students taking online classes. It's just a way to make sure the playing field is even for everybody. And fairness is all anyone can ask for in this situation.

The Kernel commends Penn State, and we believe UK should begin doing some of these things as well. It's a needed step to ensure academic integrity at this university, and nothing is more important than integrity.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pressure to find campus love unwanted, unnecessary

I am writing this in response to Tim Riley's Sept. 8 article entitled "Never fear, you can find true love." This article struck me as both amusing and comforting. As a single female on UK's campus, trying to find the "right" person for a relationship can seem overwhelming, and many times near impossible. Especially when it seems as if "all of the good ones are taken."

Yet, as Riley stated, we have to be willing to keep on trying, because of course it can't be true that the only single people available are unattractive dimwits. Right?

While Riley mentioned that many people put themselves under pressure to become attached, he didn't mention the other social pressures that college students may face about being single. I agree that it's hard enough to constantly be surrounded by friends who are currently involved in serious relationships. Yet being the third or fifth wheel on a regular basis can start to put a strain on a person's level of sanity.

This doesn't even include the pressure that people receive from their parents. In one of my classes last semester, my professor mentioned how college is pretty much your last shot at finding a quality significant other, because as soon as we enter the real world, all hope is lost in finding someone decent. Of course, this statement made all of the girls in the class become frantic and even the guys were glancing around nervously. One of my classmates remarked to me how her parents had met their freshman year of college, and were pushing her to find "that special someone." Well, join the club.

Yet I suppose that being single really isn't so bad. There are more first dates, more opportunities to meet and connect with different people, and most importantly, being the "single" friend means that your "attached" friends can pass on all of their cute single friends to you.

I do applaud Riley's efforts as a writer, as they were humorous, uplifting, and he was still able to get his main idea across. So, Tim, are you free Friday night?

Courtney Zimmerman
Equine science and management sophomore



WAYNE STAYSKAL, Tribune Media Services

Everyone must do their part for SG administration to be a success

It's the beginning of a new era for the University of Kentucky. Our athletic teams are setting the standard for excellence, with our football team leading the way, looking to go 3-0 next Saturday. Our class of new students is one of the most impressive in school history, making our top-20 goal more attainable now than it has ever been.



TYLER MONTELL
Contributing columnist

It's a new era for us in Student Government, too. While we made outstanding progress last year, we are looking to take this organization to the next level this year. You may have heard references in the Kernel about our Campus365 plan last week. After a summer of hard work we are proud to release our plan to you today. Now, we know what you are thinking, "Great, but what is this Campus365 thing?"

We're glad you asked. The Campus365 plan is a comprehensive report on the initiatives, goals and programs of the Montell-Mills administration for the 2008-09 academic year. Please refer to our Web site (www.uksga.org) to download your own copy. The plan is designed to provide students, faculty, administrators and staff with an insight on

the state of the university we want to leave for the next Student Government administration.

We are using this format as a means to map our vision and track our progress, and it is our hope that you will use this plan to evaluate our performance as the president and vice president of this student body. This is not merely a progress report for the university or an assessment for SG leaders. It is a forecast of where we believe this university can be a year from our inauguration date, and how we can get there.

This plan is a living document. While the destinations will not change, we will add to the report so that future workers for us, and also what we can improve on. We want this to be the start of a Student Government tradition, that every new administration will set forth a plan of action for the upcoming year. It is our hope that many years from this, our legacy of public accountability and initiating debate on this campus will build on itself year after year.

This report by itself is barely worth the paper it is printed on. A plan without wheels. Each individual on campus has a role — from the person sleeping next to you in class all the way up to UK President Lee Todd.

The success of Campus365 depends on every one of those roles being car-

ried out effectively. Some will lead, others will follow. Some will teach, others will learn. Your role may be as simple as showing up at an event to win an iPhone or possibly voting in a mock election.

We hope you will choose to give your feedback in a focus group or survey. Perhaps you will join in a demonstration or attend a town hall meeting. Additionally, you could sign up for the UK Alert system or join a Student Government advisory board to help us address an issue that you feel passionately about. If you are a student who has to balance academics and parenthood, we would encourage you to browse the SGA Web site and apply for a childcare grant (they are due Sept. 22 by 4 p.m. to the SGA office).

All we can tell you for sure is that we need your time, energy, voice, gifts and talents to make this campus a better place to live and learn. We designed this project to allow more students to take ownership in the change we are introducing.

In doing so, we will spread the influence of this student body so that it permeates throughout the university and Lexington communities. Let our legacy of change be one that makes a positive impact on this place. Thank you for believing in us. See Blue. Go Cats.

Tyler Montell is UK's Student Government president. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Democratic nominees are the answer to failing U.S. economy

There is no doubt in the minds of the electorate that this country is on the wrong track, as poll after poll shows this country is

worried about the housing situation and the sluggish economy. Every day, Americans are forced to watch their incomes gradually shrink, see their homes foreclosed upon, or worse yet, watch their banks fail.

Americans, especially Kentuckians, are worried. They need public leaders who are willing to acknowledge the trouble our economy is in, and not leaders who are convinced that this recession is just in our own heads.

Finally, help is on the way for these Americans caught in this economic crisis. Sen. Obama and Sen. Biden are proposing policies that are not intended just as stop-gap measures, but instead attack the causes of the crisis. They offer in the "Blueprint for Change" a 10 percent mortgage credit to those homeowners who do not itemize tax relief, helping 10 million homeowners who are struggling to maintain their properties.

Further, an Obama administration has committed itself in the same document to closing the mortgage loophole in bankruptcy laws, helping those former homeowners better manage the

debt they must deal with. If we fail to treat mortgage debt the same as any other, then we are setting up middle class homeowners to fail.

Meanwhile, the plan being pushed by Sen. McCain on his Web site would help far fewer people deal with the struggles of home ownership, and already have demonstrated an inability to make payments. His plan should instead also look at those who may potentially have trouble with their mortgages, and thus taking an active role in ending the housing crisis.

John McCain's plan is merely a knee-jerk reaction aimed only at slowing the crisis down, not solving the crisis, or even attempting to prevent the crisis from occurring. Even more distressing is that John McCain does not take on the issue of the preferences given to mortgage companies in our nations bankruptcy laws.

Sen. Obama also has proposed tax breaks for the entire middle-class, something John McCain has failed to do. Instead of following the same economic playbooks of the past eight years, where we continually cut the taxes for those "middle-class" Americans who make between \$250,000 and \$4,000,000, but forgot all those working Americans who make less than that. Sen. Obama's tax policy than that, puts an emphasis on giving relief to the struggling Americans who make less than \$250,000 a year, helping the real middle class in this country.

The tax-cuts for the wealthiest Americans have not helped the econ-

omy as many in the Republican Party have claimed, and John McCain once realized that these policies would not help average Americans. As recent as 2003, he spoke out against the tax-breaks backed by George Bush, saying on NBC's "Today" program that the tax cuts, "again, go to the wealthiest Americans." Unfortunately, in 2008, John McCain supports the short-sighted economic agenda that bears a strong resemblance to George Bush's policies.

Americans today are fortunate to have a choice in leadership that is clearly defined. We have two candidates who care about homeowners in this country. One of those candidates has a progressive plan that addresses the economic troubles of average Americans in a new way, and who is proposing policies that will help protect homeowners from losing their homes.

The other candidate cares about those same homeowners, but does not have a plan to prevent future Americans from falling into the same economic trap. Both candidates care about every American taxpayer, but only one is willing to give relief to those who are suffering. The other seeks more pay-outs to those who do not have to worry about their mortgages, the shrinking incomes of average Americans or worry about the stability of their neighborhood bank.

Joe Gallenstein is a political science and history senior and president of UK College Democrats. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Cats deserve more respect in polls

Rich Brooks wasn't going to address it. He was going to take the high road, give the cliché answer and move on.



ERIC LINDSEY
Kernel columnist

But he wanted a little love for his team.

That's what a reporter asked him Monday at his weekly news conference whether he thought his team should be in the top 25. Brooks couldn't help but give an honest, and really, only true explanation.

"You know, I... alright I'll be honest with you," a hesitant Brooks said. "I find it interesting that Kentucky football is perceived as poorly as it is — and I'm not saying that we're a top-25 team or not. But if some of the teams I've seen ranked in the top 25 are top-25 teams, then we are too."

He couldn't be more right. The UK football team, a team that has given up a combined five points and has crushed its first two opponents by an average of 30 points, is somehow sitting outside both USA Today's and the Associated Press' top 25.

Where's the love, pollsters? "We haven't had a touchdown scored on us," Brooks said. "We did

win a bowl game last year, we did beat the No. 1 team in the nation last year and we showed them we could compete in the SEC."

Apparently that's not enough. National pundits have given the Cats a little respect with a few receiving votes, but it's become pretty evident that if the name on your jersey doesn't read Georgia, Ohio State or Texas, to name a few, you're not going to get credit for blowing out cupcakes like Norfolk State.

I'll give the voters a little leeway in one respect. The Cats still face a myriad of problems on offense, have an uncertain situation at quarterback and lost a huge core of players that put Kentucky on the national radar in the first place. But name me 10 teams this year that don't face some similar type of major question that could determine the season's outcome. Teams lose major players every year. That doesn't mean they suddenly get worse.

"A lot of teams lose a lot of great players every year," Brooks said. "USC, my gosh, they just keep reloading. So obviously people don't think we can reload, and so be it."

The jury is still out on whether UK has truly reloaded the tools that made it a winner, but the defense to date has all the makings of pretty large infantry of reinforcements.

The two defensive performances alone make the Cats deserving of a spot in the top 25. And this is coming from a

person who thinks UK will inevitably go 6-6.

But a team's record and its opponents aren't always indicative of how good a team is. A 6-6 team that barrels its way through the Southeastern Conference is just as good if not better than an 8-4 team in the Big Ten. Put them in the Big East? We're talking 9-3 and a major bowl bid.

"I think people are looking at us and trying to see how many more games we're going to win rather than how good we are right now."

Exactly. And that's where they're steering the wrong way. Instead of looking at the quality of work the Cats have put on display, the voters are looking ahead to the rest of UK's schedule, in particular that date in Tuscaloosa, Ala. with the Crimson Tide.

If nothing else, look at the teams ranked ahead of UK, teams that are traditionally good, but in reality, don't deserve to be ranked after their performances so far. Take Clemson. In a word: garbage. West Virginia: Take your three points of offense and get out of the top 25.

Now I very well could be eating these words here in a few weeks. So be it. But until then, I'll do what the majority of the voters won't do:

Rich Brooks, UK, you've got this columnist's love, er, respect.

Eric Lindsey is a journalism senior. E-mail: elindsey@kykernel.com.

RECRUITING

Continued from page 1

More access, more knowledge

Ridge Wilson has two large moving boxes cluttered full of letters from prospective colleges, coaches hoping to lure the star linebacker.

At first, Wilson had fun with the daily letters, now they are a chore.

"I still feel good about the letters," said Wilson, a senior linebacker at Central. "At first it was like 'Wow, all these schools want me.' Now I have to stay humble."

One particular letter that stood out in particular is from Wilson's state university, UK. Four or five years ago, the letter would have likely been pushed aside. Only UK is no longer a pushover anymore.

After back-to-back bowl wins, the football program has become a legitimate annual contender. When recruits hear the name Kentucky, they no longer just think basketball.

That's why Wilson, despite pressure from other big-name schools and its fans, chose UK.

Scout.com recruiting analyst Dave Buerk attributes Wilson's choice and the others to the rapid improvement of UK's recruiting. In particular, Buerk points to the age of the Internet and wall-to-wall TV coverage.

UK, as part of the SEC, had games televised on CBS and ESPN last year, allowing potential recruits to watch those games from the comfort of their homes instead of traveling to Lexington.

"Kids are talking about that UK-LSU game in a way that you'd think thousands of recruits were at that game," Buerk said.

And when it comes to UK, one man is the key to that coaching bond: offensive coordinator and head coach-in-waiting Joker Phillips. Wilson describes his relationship with Phillips as "real cool," saying that walking around UK's campus with Phillips was like walking the halls of his high school.

Wilson said that Phillips is a coach he can relate to — a coach who takes business, mixes laughter and gets a commitment by the end of the day.

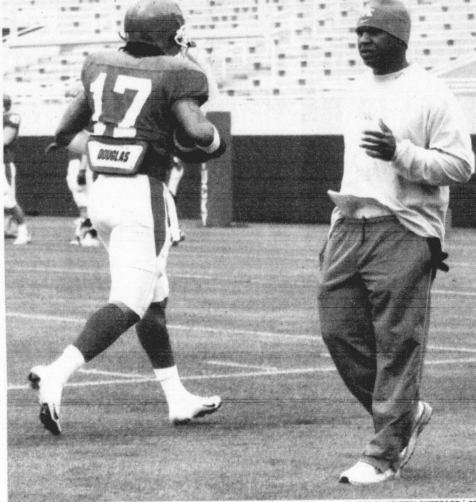
"I don't like a coach who is so uptight like football is jail," Wilson said. "Joker knows when it's time for business, but knows how to play too."

That's why when asked if anyone played a big role in their recruitment, Phillips' name comes up. And not only does Phillips wow the players, he wants, but their coaches too.

"Joker is excellent," said Ty Scroggins, Wilson's coach at Central. "He doesn't just talk to the players, he'll talk to the whole student body."

But Phillips isn't the only piece of the puzzle. Brooks, Sanders and the rest of the staff have all pulled an ample amount of recruits from their own personal pipelines.

"We have a good recruit-



Offensive coordinator Joker Phillips watches during one of UK's practices. Phillips is one of the key reasons why the Cats are having such success on the recruiting trail.

ing staff," Sanders said. "The coaches work hard at it, identifying good players and following up on them."

Add increased visits, unofficial visits, TV coverage and hundreds of Internet sources and Burke says that recruiting is in an unprecedented spot right now.

"Today, more than ever, players know what's going on in college football," he said.

Rising in-state talent

There's not a single more cherished term in recruiting than pipeline. The term refers to a certain state, area or even high school where coaches consistently grab recruits from.

To say Phillips has a pipeline to Central would be an understatement.

UK's current starting defensive tackle Corey Peters started the line and redshirt freshman Joe Scott continued along the path. Central defensive tackle Mister Cobble is headed UK's way, as is Wilson, and several other Central stars, including Jordan Tennyson and Tim Patterson, could land in Lexington.

"It's great that Central kids are getting the opportunity here," Peters said. "I like to think I had something to do with it, but I probably didn't."

But in fact, Peters did. As a four-star recruit in 2004, Peters was hearing from big name schools eager for his talent. Michigan called. So did Notre Dame. Peters decided to travel down Interstate 64, laying the foundations for UK's pipeline.

Now, Central's recruits are thinking long and hard about UK because of his decision and success for the Cats. Cobble credits Peters as part of his reason for committing to UK, and Tennyson said he's in constant con-



Junior Corey Peters tries to make a tackle during last year's Georgia game in Athens. Peters helped started UK's pipeline to Central.

churn out, colleges are pursuing Kentucky's recruits harder than ever.

Just ask Central's Ridge Wilson, who on an unofficial visit to Alabama had to fight off fans at a local steakhouse who were begging for autographs and pulling up his Rivals.com profile on their cell phones.

It didn't matter though. The pipeline, the exposure and the recent success of UK football were all Wilson needed.

It was a personal decision, sure, but it was one that ultimately came down to UK's newfound ability to promote the program, a concept Sanders equates to sales. For the time being, UK is selling its product off the shelves.

"We try to sell the positives," Sanders said. "We have a great city in Lexington, a quality education, good coach and player relationships. It gets down more to hard work and relationships."

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THE KY KERNEL

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Across

1 Tjvana "ta ta"
 6 Squad
 10 Frog, chalk user
 14 Sky after ego
 15 Fish market
 16 Part of a naval exchange?
 17 Individual way of leading a meeting?
 19 On the fence
 20 Travel options: Abbr.
 21 Run out
 22 Sports racers
 26 Foel: artistic effect
 28 Blow out
 29 10th century pope
 30 It means nothing to René
 31 Novel opening
 32 Big name in ATMs
 35 Nutritional std.
 36 One holding the ICUs?
 38 Early Prizm
 39 To date
 40 Pebbie Beach targets
 41 Cyberzine
 42 Pentate, e.g.
 44 Cater to
 46 Wove a winding path
 47 Weave a winding path
 48 Contrapuntal composition
 49 Early theater mogul
 50 Date bk. entry
 51 Flooded that put on weight?
 57 Wrath, has classic hymn
 58 Shore mound
 59 Ben's bud
 60 Youngsters
 61 Sick around
 62 They may be in the winds
DOWN
 1 Indirect path

On the Menu

free full color.

Space Deadline: Sep. 25
Material Deadline: Sep. 26
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