

Professor wins award for poverty research

By Geoffrey Griggs
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For Richard Fording, poverty has been a lifelong fascination.

Now, Fording's research into the inequities in the welfare system has earned him an award.

Fording, an associate professor of political science at UK, co-authored a paper that won the American Political Science Association's national award for the best paper on public policy for 2007. The paper will be published in an upcoming issue of the American Sociological Review.

In the paper, "Deciding to Discipline: A Multi-Method Study of Race, Choice, and Punishment at the Frontlines of Welfare Reform," Fording and his co-authors reported their findings on the penalties and sanctions minority welfare groups receive for breaking rules.



Fording

One of these rules is that in the United States, a single mother receiving welfare has to work about 30 hours a week to continue to receive welfare assistance, including food stamps and cash assistance.

Fording and co-authors Sanford Schram and Linda Houser of Bryn Mawr College and Joe Soos of the University of Minnesota conducted a survey on case managers in Florida. They discovered that when presenting managers in the study with a hypothetical situation of clients who broke rules, many penalties were given out based on race.

They found that case managers were more likely to penalize and sanction black or Hispanic people than whites. The only change from case to case was the name associated with ethnic identity.

Case managers in charge of important decisions regarding welfare recipients have the discretion to excuse clients when they break a similar rule, which means people can interpret the same statute multiple ways.

"Rules are made at state levels but, they are all interpreted differently," Fording said. "(It's like) missing an exam. The university has their rule on that situation, but professors interpret it in different ways."

They also found that when it came to the job market, race is still an issue for those looking for employment.

"The names associated with people on job applications that give off a sense of race were less likely to get called back," he said.

Fording believes that situations like this in Florida are no different than they are here in Lexington or anywhere else in the country. Although those considered to be in poverty are feeling the effects more, those in other income classes are still being affected, Fording said.

"Much of the country is being pinched right now," he said. "People that are at the bottom just happen to be pinched the hardest. The rising food and gas prices tend to compromise a larger share of poor people's income."

Although the economy is slumping, Fording said people with lower incomes should still seek the help they need.

"A lot of people eligible for financial assistance don't realize it or think of it as dishonorable," Fording said. "Awareness could be raised for these programs."

Smaller library wouldn't cut cost

By Travis Walker
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The W.T. Young Library will reopen 24 hours a day, five days a week starting Sunday at a cost equal to what UK would have had to pay to open a smaller library late at night.

Reopening the W.T. Young Library 24 hours a day Sunday through Thursday will cost \$30,000 this year, said Carol Diedrichs, the dean of libraries at UK.

During the first few months of the school year, when students, staff and faculty brainstormed ways to keep a library open between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m., the idea of keeping a smaller library open was considered, Diedrichs said.

However, keeping the Lucille Caudill Little Fine Arts Li-

brary and Learning Center open around the clock would cost the same as the W.T. Young Library because both libraries would require extra personnel to operate throughout the night, she said.

"Most of the costs are in staffing," she said.

Student Government President Tyler Montell said SG officers considered keeping the Fine Arts Library open before talking with administrators, but when they crunched the numbers, they realized that the cost was almost the same as keeping W.T. Young Library open.

Montell went on to say that keeping the W.T. Young Library open was the ideal option because many students need the services offered there, including the PC and Mac computer labs, and the periodicals and circulations.

"I believe this is the best thing for the student body," he said.

The \$30,000 cost will be split between SG and Provost Kumble Subbaswamy. SG will pay \$10,000, with \$5,000 of that coming from the SG Senate and \$5,000 coming from Montell's executive operational fund. Subbaswamy is paying the rest out of discretionary funds.

Subbaswamy, who is out of the country, could not be reached for comment. But Diedrichs said administrators were pleased to reopen the library.

"We are delighted to be able to keep the building open for the students," she said.

Ryan Ebelhar, a history senior, said he is relieved that W.T. Young Library will once again be open 24 hours a day.

He said not having a library

open around the clock bothered him because he works in the evenings and sometimes doesn't get home until 11 p.m., leaving him very little time to study.

Ebelhar also said that while he would prefer to have W.T. Young Library open 24 hours a day, another library would have been acceptable.

Stephanie Snider, a special education freshman, is also pleased the library will be open 24 hours a day again. She said while she does not usually need to study very late, she knows several people who were upset by the late-night closing of the library.

She also said she takes comfort in knowing the library is available whenever she needs it.

"I like to know that I can be there that late if I need to," she said.



PHOTO BY EMILY COVERT | STAFF

Tim Stanley, 13, talks to Keeneland jockeys Matt Straight, left, René Douglas, center, and Corey Lanerie Monday morning when a group of jockeys visited children at Kentucky Children's Hospital. The jockeys handed out Keeneland hats, stuffed animals and a variety of other horse-related toys to the children in the hospital.

Out of the saddle, into the hospital

Jockeys bring gifts, smiles to children

By Andy Norris
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As Tim Stanley rested in his hospital bed Monday morning, his eyes lit up as several jockeys dressed in racing silks walked into the room.

"Are you serious?" Tim said with a grin on his face as one jockey presented him with a Keeneland hat.

Tim, a 13-year-old patient, was one of the children in Kentucky Children's Hospital visited by members of the Keeneland jockey colony. The jockeys surprised young patients with books and other gifts.

Jockeys René Douglas and Robby Albarado are credited with the idea for the visit. Albarado, the regular rider of Curlin, the horse who recently became the first North

American horse to earn \$10 million, said he was inspired by the time he has spent at hospitals as a patient.

"I know how it is," Albarado said. "You appreciate visitors. It's a small way to give something back to the community."

Five-year-old Corey Strunk was a bit shy when the jockeys entered his room, putting his fists over his eyes to imitate he was wearing goggles. Corey Strunk, who has been a patient at Kentucky Children's Hospital for one month, opened up when he was introduced to jockey Corey Lanerie, who broke the ice by talking about how Corey was the "best name in the world."

The two Corey's talked about their shared enthusiasm for horse racing and the fact that the younger Corey had picked the winner of this year's Kentucky Derby, Big Brown.

Lanerie, a jockey of 17 years and a Louisiana native, said he enjoys making visits like the one on Monday whenever he can. "I try to do this every year," Lanerie said.

"It just makes you feel good when you leave."

The jockeys also fielded questions from the children. Tim was particularly curious, asking a number of questions about what it is like to be a jockey.

The jockeys talked about the hardships of their daily life, including the rigorous diets they have to follow to maintain their ideal weights. Still, they all agreed that it was worth it.

"When you love something, you're willing to do anything for it," Albarado said.

Dr. Tim Bricker, the chairman of the department of pediatrics at the Kentucky Children's Hospital, said officials were happy to have the jockeys visit.

"We are so pleased to have the Keeneland jockey colony come back to visit our patients at our Kentucky Children's Hospital," he said. "After all, Keeneland's jockeys are as committed to Kentucky as we are, and they are part of our team."

Knee injury ends Lyons' season, career at UK

By Bobby Reagan
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PHOTO BY KRISTIN SHERARD | STAFF
Senior wide receiver Dicky Lyons Jr. sits on the sideline during the UK-South Carolina game Saturday.

Senior wide receiver Dicky Lyons Jr. is out for the season after tearing two ligaments, the medial collateral and the posterior cruciate, in his right knee during UK's 24-17 loss to South Carolina on Saturday. The injury effectively ends Lyons' career at UK.

Lyons was trying to pick up an extra yard after a catch during the second quarter on Saturday when he was brought down by Gamecock comeback Carlos Thomas, causing Lyons to land awkwardly on his leg. Lyons left the game and did not return.

"I feel very bad for Dicky," UK head coach Rich Brooks said Monday at his weekly news conference. "He's had a great career

and has made some great plays. He's just meant a lot to the program."

Brooks said Lyons will wait to have surgery until the swelling in his knee subsides.

Lyons' injury puts pressure on UK's otherwise young offense. The senior was the Cats' top receiver, becoming one of the few reliable options during UK's offensive struggles.

Lyons led UK in receptions (33), yards (264) and touch-down receptions (two). He was also the Cats' primary punt returner, where he was averaging 12.4 yards per return.

Without Lyons, sophomore running back Derrick Locke and freshman wide receiver/quarterback Randall Cobb become UK's leading receivers. After six games, Locke has 22 catches for

189 yards, and Cobb has 11 receptions for 84 yards.

Lyons' absence will likely be felt in the locker room as well. The vocal, high-energy player was one of the Cats' leaders and was arguably the face of the UK program entering this season.

"I'm devastated," Brooks said. "You know what type of person he is and how much this all meant to him. He's devastated. No one could envision his career at UK ending like this."

Brooks said he hopes Lyons is comfortable coming to practices and games with the team and helping guide the UK receivers, but Brooks does not anticipate Lyons will be able to be on the sidelines until after the injury begins to heal. "He's going to be limited in

his mobility to even get to class," Brooks said. "It's going to be a little while until he's wanting to come out there and stand around and help a little bit."

Brooks said that Lyons always tried to get something extra out of every play he made. Lyons' teammates could also feel the pain of the loss of one of their senior leaders.

"Dicky's loss is a big loss to not only our receiving corps but our whole team," senior cornerback David Jones said.

Lyons finishes his UK career with the third-most receiving touchdowns at 18, the fourth-most receiving yards with 1,752 yards and the fifth-most receptions with 141 catches. Lyons was unavailable for comment at the weekly news conference.

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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 — You can make the decision now and proceed with confidence. The next few major surprises will be in your favor, although they may take you in unexpected directions. That's OK, you're good at regaining your balance.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — Don't let worries get you down, take action. Conditions have changed. It might still take you a while to achieve your goal, but it's good to stay busy.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is an 8 — People have strong opinions, but they don't always have the facts. Listen to

all the arguments with a critical ear. Get them to prove they know what they're talking about.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Focus all your attention on your work. You'll get a new assignment soon that also brings more authority.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — If you don't plan ahead, you'll waste a lot of time running back and forth. Everything's urgent, but keep thinking all the time. You'll have to make adaptations quickly.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — The trick is to keep from spending more than you bring in. To avoid embarrassment and confusion, shop very wisely.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Don't fight very hard for a point you're not sure is totally accurate. Get clarification and, if necessary, admit you were wrong. It won't kill you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — The pace is quick and the orders are not clear.

Assess the situation and figure out what needs to be done. You may wind up in a leadership position.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — You never ask for applause, but you sure don't have to turn it down. Somebody thinks you're marvelous. Appreciate his or her good judgment.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 5 — You've had more groundless promises than you need. Some people just can't seem to tell when they're fabricating an outcome.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Ask people directly for the facts and you'll get them. Be diplomatic if you must, but don't beat around the bush. Make that clear.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Your enthusiasm and productivity are drawing rave reviews. Accept the applause, the appreciation and the cash.

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your daily dose of entertainment, pop culture and fun

kernel POP



Travis Barker exclusive

The still-hospitalized rocker speaks publicly for the first time since his plane crash

THE DISH

On Sept. 19, Travis Barker's worst nightmare came true: The ex-Blink 182 drummer — who fears flying — was in a plane crash in Columbia, S.C., that killed four (including his assistant, Chris Baker) and left him with second- and third-degree burns covering his hands and lower body. (His TRVSDJ-AM bandmate, Adam "DJ A.M." Goldstein, suffered burns on his arm and scalp but also survived). Taken to a burn center in Augusta, Ga., (where his ex-wife, Shanna Moakler, 33, flew to his side), Barker, 32, was discharged on Sept. 29 so he could be treated in Los Angeles — and be closer to their children, Landon, 5, and Alabama, 2. Barker spoke exclusively to *US*' Paula Carvajal from the Grossman Burn Center in Los Angeles on Oct. 6.

your children?
Shanna brought them down a couple times, but not on the basis that I normally would (see them). Normally I wake up with them at six in the morning and take them to school. I'm just taking this one day at a time and listening to all the doctors' orders.

After more than 25 years as a vegetarian, you had to start eating meat again. Why?
I need protein from food rather than just protein supplements. I changed my diet. I would do anything I possibly could (to get better). They said, "There's a possibility you might heal faster if you do eat meat or just change your eating habits." So I did. I don't regret it at all, because I feel so much better!

you be in the hospital?
I hope not much longer. I sit here and read books and watch TV. I think if this surgery went well, I'll be here for at most two weeks. I have had outstanding support from my family and friends. Shanna has been here as much as she could be. I couldn't do it without them. I hate planes. My biggest fear ever is to be involved in a plane crash, so when that happened ... well, I'm just grateful to be here at all (he chokes up a bit).

Harry's cancer-crusade role

In the new lifetime movie *living Proof* (Oct. 18, 9 p.m.), Harry Connick Jr. plays Dr. Dennis Slamon, who helped develop the breast cancer treatment drug Herceptin. The New Orleans native, 41, who has three daughters with model Jill Goodacre, 43, opens up to *US*.

Q: Why did you want to do this film?
It's an important story. Dennis Slamon is a champion for (care of) breast cancer and all cancer. Most of us know someone who has cancer or has died from it. We need him.

Q: What does breast cancer awareness mean to you?
It means research. It's important that money is spent on research so people can manage this disease and get to a point where they'll live to be 80.

Did it help?
Because I was a vegetarian, it was hard to get any of my grafts to take to my real skin. I have such low levels of protein. I just got out of surgery maybe an hour ago. They took pieces from my back and pieces of skin from my thighs and they grafted them onto my feet, my heels and my right forearm — and it actually stuck!

A different day's surgery didn't go as well, right?
It was a misunderstanding. I woke up from my surgery with no pain medication at one point! Imagine how that would feel! But the doctors here are amazing.

How much have you seen How much longer will

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If you need emergency care, please go to the UK Good Samaritan Emergency Department on South Limestone.

Infants and children can receive emergency care at the UK Good Samaritan Emergency Department, but if they are admitted, inpatient services will be at Kentucky Children's Hospital.

Obstetric patients will continue to utilize the UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital.

UK Good Samaritan Hospital is located at 310 S. Limestone in Lexington.

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Gothic horror play screams onto stage

By Kristin Stock
features@kykamel.com

Ryan Case and Shayne Brakefield shouldn't have any trouble deciding what to be for Halloween this year.

Both will play eight horror film characters in the "The Mystery of Irma Vep" by Charles Ludlam, one of the most produced comedies in U.S. history. The play is a tribute to gothic horror films with characters such as vampires, werewolves and damsels in distress.

The avant-garde comedy will be performed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Natasha's Cafe, which is located at 112 Esplanade in downtown Lexington. Seating for the show starts at 6:30 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$12 for students.

Case and Brakefield have 42 costume changes, and 80 exits and entrances in less than two hours.

"You're not just changing the costume, you're changing your personality, your character," producer Natasha Williams said. "These two guys really pulled it off."

Case described Brakefield as one of the finest actors he knows while Williams said Case is one of the fathers of theater. Case wanted to do the show with Brakefield because the each had seen the other in a different show and wanted to work together, Williams said.

Case said he was excited the show was finally being produced.

He said he has wanted to do the show for 15 years, but he did not have Brakefield to work with or the right crew to make the show come to life.

"I finally got to see the dream come true," Case said.

Case said watching everyone laughing and having a good time when he saw it years ago made him want to put on the play.

"The world did not exist outside the theater walls," Case said. "It's rewarding when everyone laughs together."

Case wants to have the same effect on his audience.

"When I know the audience is having a great time, that is the most fun part," Case said. "This is what we need. Laughter is incredibly healing."

Case said the play could not have been done without the crew that helped put the play together.

"To do 'The Mystery of Irma Vep,' it had to be done right with the right cast," Case said. "It's a demanding show; anything can go wrong at any time."

The crew includes director Barry J. Williams, a founder of the Actors' Guild of Lexington, who came back to the city after a 22-year absence.

One of the main components of the play is the costumes. Kirsten Aurelius, costume designer of the Lexington Children's Theatre, designed the costumes for the play.

"If it weren't for her, 'Irma' wouldn't have happened," Natasha Williams said. "Costumes are the third character in the show."

Speaker: New generation must vote

By Rochelle Haliburton
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Forget Generation X — a new generation of voters is emerging, a speaker said Monday.

Young people are forming "Generation Obama," a group of young black people raised after the Civil Rights Movement, said Kelli Goff, author of "Party Crashing: How the Hip-Hop Generation Declared Political Independence."

Goff gave a free speech Monday evening at Memorial Hall titled "How Generation Obama Voters are Changing American Politics." During the speech, Goff discussed Generation Obama, named after Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, and why the current generation is important in this year's presidential election.

Goff described the post-Civil Rights generation as being shaped by cultural influences that go beyond race, such as music and movies. During the Civil Rights Movement, young black people were not allowed in the clubs black artists were

played in, she said. Today's youth see a growing black influence in fashion, music, language and movies.

Goff asked audience members if they use Facebook, if they watched episodes of "The Cosby Show" and can name at least two characters of the show, and if they use the Internet when doing research for papers.

Most people in the audience responded "yes" by a show of hands, which meant most people in attendance were considered Generation Obama voters, Goff said.

She explained that because the majority of this generation's voters are young, supporters of Republican candidate John McCain do not expect members of Generation Obama to show up on Election Day.

"If you answered 'yes' to most of the questions, then you are all part of Generation Obama, and the message is that John McCain is counting on you to get him elected as president of the United States," Goff said.

Goff said she is passionate about young people voting because her parents grew up during segregation

and America was a different place during that time.

"Our country still has a ways to go and our nation is not perfect," Goff said.

She compared the U.S. to the human body, in terms of healing.

"All parts of the human body have to work together to heal from a wound, just as all parts of the nation have to work together to heal from past traumas and tragedies," Goff said. "Barack Obama is not the doctor, you all are."

Goff went on to discuss issues in her book, including how black Americans have allowed the media and political leaders to segregate them, resulting in years of the political relevance of younger blacks people's votes being discounted.

Goff encouraged students to speak up and be the difference in this generation of voters. She urged students to get out on Nov. 4 and vote, no matter whom the candidate is.

"Young people can make the difference," Goff said. "Do not make a fool out of yourselves, your future or your past. You must vote."

Future student requirements focus of forum

Staff Reports

The General Education Reform Steering Committee will host a forum Tuesday to discuss changes to the general education curriculum all students are required to complete before graduation. Changes would not apply to current students.

The new curriculum consists of 30 required

credit hours, as opposed to the minimum 40 hours currently required, said Ben Duncan, Student Government's communication director. The new curriculum will also include a special focus on the transition between high school and college, he said.

The forum will be at 6:30 p.m. in the gallery of the W.T. Young Library.

Students attending the forum will also be entered to win an iPod Touch, which will be given away at the end of the event.

Trustees to meet Tuesday

The university's highest governing body will meet Tuesday.

UK's Board of Trustees will convene on the 18th floor of the Pat-

erson Office Tower at 1 p.m. As with every month, Tuesday's meeting is open to the public.

Among the items on the agenda is the renovation of the Thomas Hunt Morgan Biological Sciences Building. However, staff trustee Russ Williams said the meeting will contain nothing outside of normal board business.

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Tuesday 14 th	Wednesday 15 th	Thursday 16 th	Friday 17 th	Saturday 18 th	Sunday 19 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Madden 2009 Video game Tournament, 8:00 PM, UK Student Center Cats •Wall Painting Contest, 9:00AM, MLKCC •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00 PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League •Honors Program Student Council Meeting, 7:30PM, Student Center Rm 231 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 8:00PM, Student Center Rm 211 •Third Annual Education Abroad Fair, 10:30AM, Walkway from William T. Young Library to Rose St •Comedy Caravan, 8:00PM, UK Student Center Cats Den •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League •Campus Crusade for Christ, 7:30PM, Center Theatre in the Student Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •MICheck, 9:00PM, Cats Den •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •PA Day 5k & Cornhole Tournament, Coldstream Park •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •UK Trap and Skeet Practice, 7:00PM, Bluegrass Sportsman League

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

Donations are nice, but UK must be frugal

During this financial crisis, anything positive when it comes to money is great news. So when UK announced that university donations have increased 8 percent for the 2007-08 fiscal year, as the Kernel reported in an article on Friday, this editorial board applauded those gracious donors who have given so much in such a dire financial time.

To witness an increase of nearly \$5 million from almost 60,000 donors is usually unheard of in times like these. We commend everybody who made a donation to the university, no matter how big or small it was, for putting their extra money into education and ensuring that the higher education needs of this state and nation do not falter during the economic crisis.

Having said that, we must caution UK in how it decides to use the donations. Given the state budget cuts and the 9 percent tuition increase students have had to fight through the past couple of years, it is pretty obvious that the university is in dire need of every penny it can get. Put the money where it needs to go, of course, but keep in mind that the tough financial times everybody is experiencing could just be the beginning.

If the economy is going to get worse, as many national financial analysts have speculated, the increase in donations will likely not last long, said Ken Troske, director of the Center for Business and Economics Research and an economics professor at UK.

"I'm not sure there is anything the university can do," Troske said in Friday's Kernel. "Most people donate usually for a tax break, but there will be lots of losses to offset gains this year."

If Troske is right, the university must be prepared. Every university, including this one, functions largely on the backing of university donations. If those numbers start to decline, UK needs to be prepared for the losses it will likely face. If that means saving some of the donations from this year for harder times, then so be it.

One thing the university can ill-afford to do is brush the economic crisis off as being just a cycle of the economy. Paula Pope, director of Campaign Services and Donor Relations at UK, said in Friday's Kernel that she's not worried about next year's money, while adding that the university always sees "cycles of prosperity," with some years having more donations than others.

The problem with that line of thinking is that this crisis is no normal economic cycle. Everybody in this nation will likely be affected in one way or another by the downturn in the market.

For some, that will mean tighter budgets and less spending. That could, of course, entail cutting donations. If that happens, as Troske said would likely be the case, the university could be in for a huge loss.

Whether this happens, only time will tell. But the university should plan and be prepared for a drop in donations next year.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Columnist overly critical of football team after loss

I'd like to respond to Eric Lindsey's column on Oct. 13, titled "Despite gifts, Cats struggle to score."

Lindsey's discussion of the football team's loss to South Carolina this weekend is unfair and shortsighted. He writes, "the Cats did what they always do ... hung their heads, said 'would've, could've, (and) should've,' which is nothing more than an attack on the very character of the players, rather than any sort of insightful gridiron analysis."

A more knowledgeable observer would note that the team played quite hard throughout the game, despite the bad breaks, and that while admittedly ineffective on offense, the Cats were able to compete with a strong South Carolina squad that is now riding a four-game winning streak.

In particular, Lindsey's assertions that the "offense is so bad and so lost at this point that they find ways not to score," and that "the offense is not getting any better" are patently false, and somewhat cowardly. The "horrible throws" Lindsey notes were thrown by a sophomore first-year starter against a defense that held then-No. 2 Georgia to 14 points a few weeks ago.

One must assume that Lindsey has been spoiled by the prolific output of the Woodson/Burton/Little/Johnson/Tammie (all currently in the NFL) attack of last season. Unfortunately, this is college football, and people graduate. The offense is young, period. Only the foolish would mistake youth for a "lack of talent."

Finally, the claim that the Cats are "visibly reeling" is simply journalistic showboating. I assume Lindsey saw the phrase in some discussion of the Cincinnati Bengals and decided it was appropriate here. It is not. Losing at Alabama by a field goal in a game most predicted would be a blowout is not reeling. Losing a hard-luck game to South Carolina (not Spurrier; Lindsey seems to believe the ol' ball coach is still spinning under center) is not reeling.

The Cats have every opportunity to continue to compete and win in the Southeastern Conference this season and for years to come.

Keith Halladay
part-time English instructor

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brad Bowling. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



NATE BEELER, The Washington Examiner

Campus diversity is a complicated issue that goes beyond the surface

This semester it seems like the green fee, The Dame and diversity have dominated the headlines and content of the Kernel's pages.



WESLEY ROBINSON
Kernel columnist

But there is a major difference between the green fee and The Dame in comparison to diversity. Simply put, the first two issues have concrete solutions, and diversity does not. The green fee either succeeds or fails. The Dame finds a place in which to reside or it doesn't. But diversity is an enduring battle requiring an entirely different level of diligence.

There have been student-led efforts to help solve the problem; Student Government has created a board to promote diversity through incentives. The inter-Greek relations project came about as a desire to close the gap between the North-American Interfraternity Conference and the National Pan-Hellenic Fraternities and Sororities. And Students United for Campus Climate Enhancement and Student Success exists to bridge the gap between students and administration. The university has played a part in working with diversity, hiring a vice president for institutional diversity, adding funds to minority scholarships and retention, and increasing visible presence of minorities in the "See Blue" campaign.

But even after those and many other efforts, diversity still seems to have

a negative connotation on campus — like it's a bad word. On both sides of the issue, students feel immersed in diversity discussion. Why should you have to learn about something you don't want to learn about? Other students wonder why they have to put their culture on display and cater to the needs of mainstream campus. Why should I have to teach other people about my culture?

At the end of the day, it is nearly impossible to tell if diversity initiatives are working. There is no empirical measurement that says diversity is working. As the Kernel reported a couple of weeks ago, Student Affairs commissioned an independent group last spring to gauge "Student Perceptions of Diversity Programming at the University of Kentucky." I, as well as many other students, could have told Student Affairs what the report was going to say. The university could have used the money spent on the report and given it back to the students. Most of us observe and live out the problems that were found in that report.

Utilizing the resources that UK already has will help make the change. Bringing in an outside group is nice, but it hardly makes sense when the initiatives going on around campus are under-funded and lack the support they need. I don't know how much the aforementioned report cost Student Affairs, but even if it was just a dollar, there should have been a budget adjustment to do more to benefit the students.

Essentially the university is in the "damned if you do, damned if you don't" situation. You put more effort

into diversity and enhancing the diversity experience, and students complain that there is too much focus being put in one area, or that diversity is simply a public relations plug to help the university. But if nothing is done, UK is back to the same old policies that promote self-segregation.

Inequalities between various student populations, organizations and individuals exist, and most students are unaware of these inequalities or are not properly equipped to fight a campus that doesn't have their best interests in mind. Administration should not serve as proxy students' conscience and actions, but at some point they have to step in and assist students in reaching their goals.

So how can this problem be solved? First, students must embrace each other and make a conscious effort to interact and understand each other. You can't complain if your contribution to the solution is given in words alone, as both sides of diversity are guilty of this. If everyone makes it a point to go to an event different from their norm, they will most likely find it to be an enlightening experience. This doesn't mean just for extra credit or because of organizational requirements, but for learning about things different from what you normally learn.

College serves as preparation for the increasingly diverse world. Each day, borders between people dissolve a little bit at a time. It is better that we be prepared for this ever-changing world than feel comfortable about how we are acclimated to the system at UK.

Wesley Robinson is a Spanish junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Political mudslinging needs to stop

Recently, I spoke with a John McCain supporter disheartened by some of the national polls that have come out in favor of Barack Obama. This man was tired of McCain being "Mc Nice Guy" and explained how he ardently disagreed with one of McCain's campaign manager's statements that he and McCain would rather lose the election with honor than achieve a dishonorable victory, something out of the senator's character.

Obviously, it is no secret that Obama has some problematic associations with radical individuals and corrupt political leaders, namely Rev. Jeremiah Wright, William Ayers, Emil Jones, Jim Johnson and Frank Raines. This man that I spoke with cited one of George Washington's quotes: "Associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company."

Obama is attempting to attain a position in which he would represent every voting population of the United States, and some citizens want to know who they can trust with their country. A majority feel that they can trust McCain, whether they disagree with him or not, and many are uncertain about Obama, according to polling data.

While these concerns are legitimate

in some aspect, my concern comes from the statement that this man made about honor and its lack of importance in the realm of politics. I think I speak on behalf of the majority of the student population when I say that we are sick and tired of the political bickering that consumes our current process.

Unfortunately, in campaigns today, a common tactic used is attacking a candidate's character. Questioning a dishonest man and questioning a man's judgment are fine, so long as there is justifiable evidence to support the claims. However, dragging a decent person through the mud in politics is all too common (such as what is being done to Sarah Palin and Obama.)

We, as citizens, often complain about the lack of decent individuals in politics and having to pick the lesser of two evils. Too often this is because we do not dig deeper than the political rhetoric. We listen to each candidate belittle his or her opponent by means of character degradation and then vote based off their speeches and debates. Unfortunately, politicians know that and continue to try to appeal to the average voter. They use slanderous comments to belittle their opponents and dig up anything from the opposing candidate's past to try to find some dirt.

The reason that I mentioned this man's comments is because it greatly concerns me where the moral fiber of our political system is. The position of public servant should not be something taken lightly. I like to think that there was a time when voters could cast their

vote based, in part, on the character of a man and his or her honor in regard to how they act on the campaign trail.

I like to think that the word "politician" did not always have the negative connotation that it carries now. Unfortunately, there are many people in politics that do not hold the same standard of honor that I do. Political games and bickering have taken the place of doing what is best for the country.

In Wednesday's debate, I hope McCain continues to display honor in his campaign by continuing to discredit the statements made by some of his supporters that Obama is a terrorist and a radical Islamic extremist in disguise. It is fair to question his judgment of accepting more money from Fannie Mae than any other senator, excluding Chris Dodd, and including two corrupt former CEOs of Mae, Johnson and Raines, in his campaign.

It is true that Obama needs to answer these questions and others concerning his associations over the years in this debate, but these questions can be asked without further disgracing the political process. I am sure that McCain will keep his honor in high esteem throughout the election. Hopefully, with time, morality and civility in politics will continue to be of utmost importance with candidates and campaigns.

College Republicans will meet Tuesday at 8 p.m. in room 211 of the Student Center.

Jacob Sims is a political science and history sophomore and UK College Republicans president. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

SPORTS

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FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Cobb excels despite constant moves

By Bobby Reagan
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Most freshmen aren't expected to make a sudden impact at one position their first year. Almost zero freshmen are expected to be a jack-of-all-trades like the one Randall Cobb is developing into.

Cobb has seen time at wide receiver, quarterback and punt returner and is expected to be relied on even more with the loss of senior wide receiver Dicky Lyons Jr. for the rest of the season.

Despite being only a freshman, the Cats believe Cobb has the potential to be a special player.

"It's hard to come in as a freshman and make an immediate impact," senior cornerback David Jones said. "I see Cobb's performance getting better with each and every game."

Jones, who has seen time at receiver for UK before, said he talked with Cobb last week about stepping in and becoming a main part of the offense. He warned Cobb that teams would be focusing more on Cobb after his performance in the South Carolina game, where he caught eight passes for 53 yards.

"Cobb told me he has never been more sore before in his life," Jones said. "All I could think to say to him was welcome to the SEC."

Saturday was Cobb's first game back since suffering an ankle sprain on Sept.

13 against Middle Tennessee State. UK head coach Rich Brooks said Cobb is sore because of another ankle sprain suffered against South Carolina in addition to a bruised left hand. Because of Cobb's increasing role, teams are targeting the freshman, leading to more injuries, Brooks said.

Although Cobb showed some of his explosiveness as a receiver against South Carolina, he could still be used at quarterback to provide a struggling UK offense with a much-needed spark.

"He's a great player and teams are really going to key on him," junior running back Alfonso Smith said. "I really like Cobb at quarterback though, so hopefully we can get him in some packages back there."

Smith said he also had a conversation with Cobb about the pressure of playing in the Southeastern Conference. He told Cobb and the other freshmen to just go out on the field and play.

"When it comes time to make the plays, you have to make them," Smith said. "That's why you are here."

While the loss of Lyons is potentially devastating, junior linebacker Micah Johnson said the younger guys have to step up and be ready to fill the void left by him.

"(Lyons is) not the only receiver on scholarship," Johnson said. "Someone else is going to have to step up too."

Cobb has shown he can fill in at any

spot this year. He has 11 receptions for 84 yards as a receiver and is 7-of-12 for 91 yards and a touchdown at quarterback. The Alcoa, Tenn., native has also proven to be a weapon on the ground, carrying 11 times for 67 yards and two touchdowns.

"We're asking this guy to play two positions and he's a freshman," Brooks said. "He's doing it really well too. He's a special player, and everyone has got to remember he's just a freshman."

UK-Florida picked up by Raycom

The Cats' Oct. 25 visit to The Swamp in Gainesville, Fla. will be shown as Raycom's Game of the Week. Kickoff is at 12:30 p.m.

It is the second time this season the Cats have been televised on Raycom.

Jeffries, Hines unavailable for Arkansas

Offensive linemen Justin Jeffries and Stuart Hines will both be out for the game against Arkansas, Brooks said at his weekly news conference Monday. However, Brooks thinks both can be ready to return to practice as early as next week.

Johnson is questionable for the game after suffering a quad bruise against South Carolina.

Junior linebacker Michael Schwindel, junior tight end Maurice Grinter and junior wide receiver DeMorie Ford are also listed as questionable.

Finally starting, injury sidelines senior

By Alex Risen
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Senior midfielder Kristin Kover wasn't happy to be sitting on the bench.

After being primarily a reserve in her first three seasons at UK, Kover was no longer content with being a substitute. Sure, Kover has played in most of the women's soccer team's games since she's been at UK, but as the clock ticked toward the end of her career, Kover made a move.

"She wasn't starting and made the decision to come to me and she asked what she needed to do in order to start," UK head coach Warren Lipka said. "She really elevated her game and went out before and after practice to work on her touch and passing. She's an

integral part of our team and we need her to distribute the ball at midfield."

In her freshman year at UK, Kover, a midfielder/defender, saw action in 17 games, starting two of them.

The following year, she appeared in every match and had seven starts, building upon her skills and technique and earning more playing time. Her junior year, Kover started two of the 17 games she played in.

Again, Kover began the 2008 season as a reserve, but she didn't give up on her goal of starting.

Kover started her first game of the season Oct. 3 against South Carolina. But,

in the next game, on Oct. 5 against Florida, Kover broke the fifth metatarsal in her left foot.

Now Kover is out four weeks. If she returns on schedule, she'll be ready for the Southeastern Conference tournament.

"I'm the team's biggest supporter right now and my injury doesn't stop my vocal ability on the sidelines," Kover said. "I have to be a leader and I have to be supportive and stern to help my team."

The impact she has off the field and on the sidelines is important right now for the young Cats, Lipka said. Their roster is made up of 18 freshmen and sophomores to just

four seniors, and Lipka said the team is searching for leadership.

"She's a leader on and off the field," Lipka said. "She's self-motivated, and her effort and attitude says something about her. She stepped up and now something like this has to happen. It's just unlucky."


Kover's longtime roommate and teammate, senior defender Tara Herold, said the team is like a family and seeing Kover on the sidelines during her senior year is hard to watch.

"She's been playing well and we all want her back on the field," Herold said. "She's joking around off the field and taking it as it comes. She's just going to have to fight through it and move on because there's nothing she can do about it now."



Kover

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