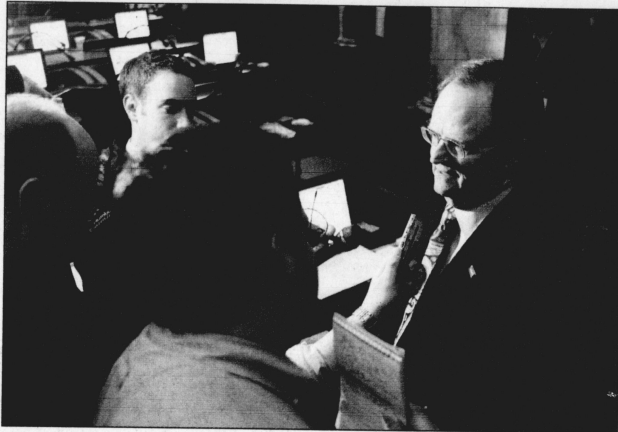


KENTUCKY KERNEL

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Governor slashes higher education budget

Beshear proposes 12 percent cut in university funding statewide



Reporters gather around President Lee Todd after Gov. Steve Beshear presented his budget recommendations yesterday in Frankfort. PHOTOS BY BRITNEY MCINTOSH STAFF

By Jill Laster and Rebecca Sweeney
news@kykernel.com

FRANKFORT — Gov. Steve Beshear called for budget cuts across Kentucky last night, including a 12 percent cut in higher education funding, to overcome a decrease in state revenue for the 2008-10 biennium.

"Last year while running for governor, I envisioned this first budget address to be a night where I unveiled a plan brimming with bold and creative new programs," Beshear said. "However, that evening will have to wait. Because tonight, we deal with cold, harsh reality."

Last night, Beshear unveiled his recommendations for state spending before a joint session of the Kentucky Senate and House of Representatives. The recommendation by the governor is the beginning of the two-month budget process; the legislature will now start making changes before approving a final budget.

Despite the cuts to general higher education funding, Beshear called for the legislature to approve \$64 million in bonds for UK capital construction projects and \$60 million in bonds for the Bucks for Brains program, which helps create endowed research chairs by matching private donations with public dollars.

During his address, the governor said he is "deeply disturbed" by the state of higher education funding.

"I strongly believe in the missions and goals of our colleges and universities, and I regret offering a budget with reductions in this area,"

Gov. STEVE BESHEAR

"The state has to tighten its belt, but not all of that belt-tightening can be aimed at higher education."

PRÉSIDENT LEE TODD

Beshear's higher education cuts came in response to a drop in projected revenues across the states. The governor said last night that revenues would be about \$580 million less in the first year of the biennium than the state is spending in the current fiscal year ending in June and about \$306 million less in the second.

With limited resources, no reduction in K-12 education funds and the cost of funding health programs, the state cannot increase spending at the level higher education institutions want, Beshear said.

University presidents and board members must look at ways to cut operational costs to avoid "the easy option of large tuition increases," Beshear said.

If Beshear's budget passes, the number of merit-based scholarships would have to be reduced, Todd said.

UK is willing to work with the governor's office to reduce state spending and keep money for higher education any way it can, Todd said.

"The state has to tighten its belt, but not all of that belt-tightening can be aimed at higher education,"

Todd also said UK's plan to become a top-20 public research university by 2020 would be damaged if Beshear's budget recommendation were approved.

"The state has asked us to be a top-20 institution, and we can't do that on the cheap," Todd said.

Under the Top 20 Business Plan, UK is requesting budget increases of 6 percent, or about \$20 million, each year.

Despite budget cuts, Beshear said, Kentucky will be able to continue improving higher education throughout the state.

The governor recommended that need-based student financial aid programs and the Kentucky National Guard tuition award be exempt from the cuts.

During last night's address, Beshear laid out his other recommendations for 2008-10, including:

■ K-12 education should be the highest priority and will receive funding to maintain the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky program, which provides money to local school districts.

■ Medicaid should receive the largest amount of new funding, with a \$147.8 million increase in 2009 and a \$242.5 million increase in 2010.

■ A criminal justice task force should be created to review penal code, sentencing guidelines and other judicial issues.



"I strongly believe in the missions and goals of our colleges and universities, and I regret offering a budget with reductions in this area."

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■ A criminal justice task force should be created to review penal code, sentencing guidelines and other judicial issues.

Beshear acknowledged that the economy will fall again in the future, but he said Kentucky's ability to withstand future trouble will improve after the budget is balanced with recurring sources of revenue.

"Presenting a budget with significantly less resources will force us to become more efficient," Beshear said. "It will force us to rethink how state government operates. And by doing so, we will be on a firmer financial footing."

Toward the end of his speech, Beshear said Kentuckians spend more than \$1 billion of

See Budget on page 3

Teach-in to 'Focus the Nation' on global warming

Finding solutions to climate change goal of nationwide event

By Chris Weis
news@kykernel.com

UK will join more than 1,000 other colleges and universities tomorrow in what organizers call the largest teach-in in U.S. history.

Focus the Nation, an education initiative that focuses on global warming, asked students from campuses nationwide to plan their own versions of the event with the aim of finding new climate change solutions.

Sponsored by UK Greenthumb and Residence Life Recycling, UK's Focus the Nation event is an opportunity "to create dialogue between local leaders and students about climate change," said Robin Michler, who coordinated the event along with Greenthumb Co-coordinator Brittany Zwickler.

"The overall goal of (Focus the Nation) is to come up with some consensus voice from this age demographic," said Shane Tedder, sustainability coordinator for the UK Office of Residence Life.

"Focus the Nation is a vehicle to deliver that voice from college students to our nation's political leaders about what they want to see done," he said.

Tedder said program founder Eban Goodstein saw 2008, the start of a new political cycle, as a year to engage students in the decision-making process on what he felt was "the most daunting challenge (this generation will face.)"

UK's event will consist of a teach-in throughout the day with discussions led by community activists, UK staff and professors from various departments.

"(Global warming) is not just an environmental issue," Tedder said. "The challenges global warming present are political, economic, social and environmental."

The diversity in discussion topics represents how global warming affects different aspects of our lives, Tedder said. He will speak about how everyday consumer choices can have a positive effect on environment, economy, and culture in a talk titled "Doing It Daily."

"(The event) seems to be taking a holistic view of the issue, where it's not merely a matter of understanding the scientific or natural processes, or it's not merely a discussion about impact or policies," said Alice Turkington, a physical geography professor at UK. "It's a broad-ranging investigation."

Turkington will bring a scientific perspective to her lecture, which will explore the greenhouse effect's impact on Earth's climate. Her lecture begins the teach-in at 9:30 a.m. in room 206 of the Student Center.

The roundtable discussion at 6 p.m. will be composed of state Sen. Ernesto Scorsone, D-Lexington; Bob Wiseman, UK vice president for facilities management; Cheryl Taylor, Lexington's environmental quality commissioner; and community activist Jim Embry.

Michler, a German and geography senior, said he hopes Focus the Nation will encourage

See Focus on page 3

INSIDE: Schedule of UK Focus the Nation events PAGE 3

UK student enters race for city council

By Will Aaron
news@kykernel.com

While many students are preparing for their first test of the semester, one sophomore is planning his campaign strategy to win a seat on Lexington's governing body.

Daniel Burton, a secondary education sophomore, has officially joined the race for a seat on the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council representing the 3rd District, which includes UK.

The Lexington native is moving from working on others' campaigns to creating his own in hopes of tackling some of the issues facing Lexington, he said.

During the last four years, he's helped campaign for Gov. Steve Beshear, Mayor Jim Newberry and various other Democratic candidates.

"As I watched our city's issues get bigger and bigger, the proposed answers seemed smaller and smaller," Burton said. "I've always felt it was my duty to stand for what I believe."

Burton said some of his top priorities would be addressing Lexington's sewer system problems and the city's carbon footprint on the Bluegrass. Also, with the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games coming to the region in 2010, Burton wants to ensure that Lexington presents

itself well.

In the long term, Burton said his goals for the city include economic development to attract more career opportunities that encourage citizens to stay in Lexington.

"I want to help create opportunity in our city. I really want to stay in this community, a place where my kids and grand-kids can stay," Burton said. "Lexington deserves more than she has been given."

Balancing his academic life with the responsibilities of the position if elected is possible, Burton said, as many council members have other work and family responsibilities and are still effective members of the council.

"If they can do it, so can I," said Burton, who also works as a resident adviser in the Greg Page Apartments.

Burton has canvassed neighborhoods and explained his platform to potential voters, and he said support is growing for his campaign. If elected in November for the 3rd District council seat, Burton said he would be able to accurately represent a district that contains a large number of college students.

"I can only do so much from the sidelines," he said. "If I don't do something, who will?"



Secondary education sophomore Daniel Burton is running for a seat on the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council representing the 3rd District, which includes UK.

ED MATTHEWS STAFF

Appalachian stereotypes focus of panel today

By Rebecca Sweeney
rsweeney@kykernel.com

Frayed overalls, floppy-brimmed hats, cornoc pipes, missing teeth and feuding clans of the Hatfield and McCoy families are all stereotypes of people from Appalachia, said Ron Pen, director of Appalachian studies.

"Historically, it was important to stereotype hillbillies in this way in order to distinguish and marginalize them as non-white people," said Pen, also the director of the John Jacob Niles Center for American Music.

A panel will discuss those stereotypes and other issues facing the region in "Talk from Appalachia" tonight at 7 in the Student Center Small Ballroom. The panel discussion, part of the Diversity Dialogues series, was created to build respect for Appalachian students, faculty and staff at UK, said Mahjabeen Rafiquddin, director of Student Diversity Engagement.

Diversity Dialogues is a series of discussions held throughout the year that explore topics of race, ethnicity and diversity as a whole.

Tonight's event, sponsored by the Office of Student Diversity Engagement and Office for Multicultural and Academic Affairs, is an opportunity to discuss the region that is located a few hours from Lexington and supports the infrastructure of UK's campus, Pen said.

"The landscape and the cultural mix have nurtured a special heritage of history and culture built upon the people who settled this land," Pen said.

Alan DeYoung, professor of educational policy studies and evaluation, said most people do not know most of their energy and food come from rural places.

"Much of America looked a lot like places in the mountains in terms of values, life cycles and labor until the 20th century," DeYoung said. "The Appalachian heritage is a mainstream American one."

Gurney Norman, an English professor and member of UK's Appalachian studies

faculty, said the myth of Appalachia's separation from mainstream America is 100 years out of date.

"Most people in the mountains are educated and modern as any of the regions of North America," Norman said.

Becoming familiar with a region different than their own offers students a view on places outside of what they know.

"The regional view can be the starting place for a worldview," he said.

Patrick Nally, a marketing and integrated strategic communications junior, said students should learn about other cultures and experiences from students, faculty and community members.

"It doesn't matter what job field you are going into or what city you live in. This global and inclusive style of thought comes with major benefits that will help you manage through tough situations with people different from yourself," said Nally, the marketing associate of Student Diversity Engagement.

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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 a 7 — Be careful what you say, even among your friends. Don't pass along a rumor, it's too likely to be false. During the next few weeks, check and double-check everything before publication.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 7 — You want to come to your partner's aid of course, but don't be hasty. In this situation, you might be in the way. Wait until your assistance is requested, before butting in.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 7 — Be careful with communications. Misunderstandings are prevalent. Even stuff you put in the mail is liable to get lost. Not a good day to travel.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is an 8 — Your luck improves immensely if you don't talk about it. Don't gamble with your money now, or with your affection either. The less said, the better.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 6 — Keep up with the regular chores, try not to get behind. The other questions you're pondering can wait a little while. Let somebody else work on them for you. Do the important small stuff.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is an 8 — You're learning a great deal, but you don't know everything yet. Do more research, even before you need it. Spend your time, and other people's time, wisely. They'll appreciate that.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 7 — Financial discussions bring up more questions than they do answers. Know this going in and you won't be disappointed. Make a list and then get busy filling in the blanks.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — Don't believe everything

you hear. Check and double check rumors, especially if they're about family members. Take a "wait and see" attitude, and don't spread gossip.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 6 — It's hard to finish a task because you don't have enough information. If you can wait, this situation will clear up in a couple of days. If you can't wait, good luck.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — Leave financial topics completely alone for a while. Telling people about your business now does more harm than good.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 6 — Don't talk back to the boss, even if you're right. Especially if you're right, actually. He or she's not in the mood to hear it. Talk it over with a loved one, instead.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 7 — Have what you want delivered. That'll be better than going after it. Travel is still not advised, due to delays and other complications. If you must go, start early.

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HOT STUFF

Britney's bizarre school visit

THE DISH

The pop star makes a troubling request at a Beverly Hills elementary school

weeks since that incident, Spears' two closest pals — adviser Sam Lutfi and paparazzo fling Adnan Ghalib — have become locked in a power struggle for her trust, with Lutfi even going so far as to announce plans to file a restraining order against Ghalib on Spears' behalf. The feud seems to have come to a head on January 16, when, sources say, Spears and Ghalib had a falling-out following a dinner at their frequent haunt, Mexican eatery Gaucho Grill. Later that night, with Ghalib gone, Spears nursed her wounds with some retail therapy, making a midnight trip with Lutfi for groceries at Ralphs (on the way there, four paparazzi following her were arrested for reckless driving) then hitting Kitson, an L.A. boutique, where she dropped thousands of dollars in less than an hour.

Next on her to-do list? Making up with the arrested photographers. On January 20, she invited five snappers into her home for a 2 a.m. visit, complete with champagne and an impromptu dance party. The only thing missing? Her beau. "Adnan wasn't there, so the guys asked what was going on. She was upset," says a source who spoke to the photographers. (The source adds that Spears was angry with Ghalib for selling photos of her.) Lutfi eventually headed the crew out at 6 a.m. ("She wanted them to stay longer," says the source) and was by Spears' side the next day at a deposition with Kevin Fedelino's lawyer, Mark Vincent Kaplan. The interview is expect-

ed to take several days. Both legal teams are mum on the details, and it may not happen very soon. Her attorney Tara Scott tells Us: "We have not rescheduled the next session yet."

Jake's Trips To See Reese

For Jake Gyllenhaal, 27, and Reese Witherspoon, 31, distance is making the heart grow fonder. "Jake's filming right now in New Mexico, but he flies back on the weekends to see Reese, because he can't stand to be away," a source close to the actors tells Us. Another friend says, "Reese is really happy. She's balancing seeing him with her first priority, which is her kids." Meanwhile, a film set source tells Us there is no truth to rumors of bad blood between Witherspoon and her *Four Christmases* costar, Vince Vaughn. Says the source, "Reese likes funny guys — Jake is a total prankster — so of course she gets along with Vince!"

Xtina's Baby Has His Bris

A big mazel tov to Christina Aguilera, 27, and hubby Jordan Braunman, 30, who celebrated the circumcision of their 8-day-old son, Max, at their Beverly Hills pad Jan. 20. In a throwback to her wilder days, Aguilera attached a penis-shaped balloon to the front door. How is the pop star handling motherhood? A source tells Us, "She is such a natural!"

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FOCUS

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President Lee Todd to sign the American College & University Presiding Climate Commitment and push UK to "become a leader in pledging to reduce carbon emissions."

The Presidents Climate Commitment, Tedder said, asks universities to develop a plan to make their campuses climate neutral and prepare their students "to take on the challenges global warming is going to present."

Transylvania University, Berea College, Centre College and Northern Kentucky University have signed the climate commitment among other colleges across the nation.

Higher education can be a leader in sustainability, Wiseman said.

UK's current sustainability efforts include a control room that monitors and shuts down heating and cooling systems during off-cycles, a campus recycling program that recycles about one-third of UK's waste, and a "green-clearing" pilot program intended to reduce the amount of chemicals and materials used to clean campus buildings, Wiseman said. Other efforts can be found on UK's Sustainability Task Force Web site (www.uky.edu/sustainability).

However, some environmental aspects of the UK campus will "be very tough... to change," Wiseman said. "We're well within the top 10 of energy-using customers in the state," he said. "Single-car commuters are dominant on this campus. We burn coal to produce our electricity, and we burn coal to do our heating. All of those combine for a very heavy carbon footprint."

Wiseman said he hopes UK's Sustainability Task Force can offset these problems with greater emphasis on other initiatives.

For Tedder, the question is feasibility.

"Can (UK) conceive of becoming climate neutral in the next few decades given the fossil fuel emissions coming from current coal-to-energy processes?" he said.

Kentucky's emphasis on coal is troubling for Scorsone. The state senator said he is glad to be a part of an event that "sheds more light" on global warming, an issue he thought was neglected during a 2007 special session of the General Assembly dealing primarily with providing tax incentives to attract a coal-to-liquid fuel plant to Kentucky.

BUDGET

Continued from page 1

entertainment money at other states' gaming facilities.

"Right now, those Kentucky dollars are educating Indiana's kids, providing healthcare for Illinois' seniors and paving West Virginia's roads," he said.

Beshear estimated that allowing expanded gaming in Kentucky will result in hundreds of millions of dollars in new tax revenue every year, and he plans to propose a constitutional

Focus the Nation events at UK tomorrow

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. Earth's Climate: How and why the climate is changing. Alice Turkington (Geography), 206 Student Center

11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Denial as an Obstacle to Change, Carolyn Rankin (Communications), 206 Student Center

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free Lunch, 357 Student Center

1 to 2 p.m. Society and the Biosphere: How We've (Socially?) Constructed this Relationship. John Johnson (AASHE) and Higher Education as a Catalyst for Change, Niles Barns (AASHE), Centre Theater, Student Center

2 to 3:15 p.m. Building Green Communities, Richard Levine (Architecture), Centre Theater, Student Center

2 to 3:15 p.m. Doing It Daily, Shane Tedder (Student Affairs) Residence Life Recycling, 206 Student Center

3:30 to 4:45 p.m. "Back to Nature" or "War of All Against All"? False Alternatives in the Politics of Global Warming, Ernie Yanarella (Political Science), Centre Theater, Student Center

3:30 to 4:45 p.m. Grassroots Activism as a Means of Social and Environmental Justice, Jim Embry (Community Activist), 206 Student Center

6:30 p.m. Round table discussion with local leaders featuring State Senator Ernesto Scorsone, UK vice president of Facilities Management Bob Wiseman, LFUDG Environmental Quality Commissioner Cheryl Taylor, and community organizer and advocate Jim Embry, 206 Student Center

"We've done very little when it comes to renewable energy," Scorsone said. "We need to be ahead of the curve."

Turkington said she thinks students "lead the charge" at UK against global warming.

Students today are naturally engaged in sustainability issues, Wiseman said.

"When you're talking about the basic changes in the environment of the world," Wiseman said, "there aren't many things students should think are more important."

amendment to allow Kentuckians to vote on whether to allow limited expanding gaming in Kentucky.

Kentucky is facing economic obstacles, Beshear said, but overcoming those problem areas could lead to growth in the state.

"Yes, we are in tough times, and just like Kentucky families who find themselves in a similar situation, we must tighten our belts and balance our checkbook," Beshear said. "But, my friends, if we work together we are going to come out of this in much better shape than we were before."

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from Jan. 22 to Jan. 28

- Jan. 22** Theft of bike reported to UK Police Department at 11:13 a.m.
- Jan. 23** Theft reported from Kentucky Clinic at 7:58 a.m.
- Jan. 23** Injury accident reported from Colfax Avenue near South Limestone at 9:24 a.m.
- Jan. 23** Theft reported from Holmes Hall at 2:20 p.m.
- Jan. 23** Indecent exposure reported from president's office at Bluegrass Community and Technical College at 2:24 p.m.
- Jan. 23** Indecent exposure reported from Bluegrass Community and Technical College at 6:48 p.m.
- Jan. 24** Theft of newspaper machine from behind Blazer Hall at 9:43 a.m.
- Jan. 24** Theft of 1997 Mazda 626 reported from Parking Structure #8 at 4:10 p.m.
- Jan. 24** Theft from basketball courts reported at Johnson Center at 7:37 p.m.
- Jan. 24** Drug/marijuana use reported from Greg Page Apartments at 10:40 p.m.
- Jan. 25** Alcohol intoxication reported from Kirwan I at 3:27 a.m.
- Jan. 25** Theft from car reported at UK Parking office at 8:18 a.m.
- Jan. 25** Theft of money reported from Student Center food court at 9:23 a.m.
- Jan. 25** Theft of laptop reported from College of Nursing at 10:07 a.m.
- Jan. 25** Theft reported to UK Police Department at 2:57 p.m.
- Jan. 25** Theft reported from Biomedical/Biological Sciences Research Building at 7:16 p.m.
- Jan. 25** Theft of cell phone reported from UK Hospital at 9:38 p.m.
- Jan. 26** Drug/marijuana use reported from Blanding III at 12:17 a.m.
- Jan. 26** Alcohol intoxication reported from corner of Rose Street and Euclid Avenue at 3:54 a.m.
- Jan. 26** Theft of grey Isuzu Rodeo reported from Blanding Tower at 5:18 p.m.
- Jan. 27** Theft of Playstation and games reported from New North Hall at 12:26 p.m.
- Jan. 27** Theft of license plate reported to UK Police Department at 2:16 p.m.
- Jan. 27** Suspicious person with a gun reported from Samaritan Hospital at 7:22 p.m.
- Jan. 27** Theft of Toyota Scion from Parking Structure #3 reported from UK Hospital at 11:12 p.m.
- Jan. 28** Theft of laptop reported from W.T. Young Library at 10:29 a.m.
- Jan. 28** Theft of Xbox game reported from Kentucky Clinic at 12:19 p.m.
- Jan. 28** Theft of debit cards and cash reported to UK Police Department at 1:58 p.m.
- Jan. 28** Theft of wallet reported from Johnson Center at 7:27 p.m.
- Jan. 28** Theft of maroon Chevrolet truck reported at UK Parking office at 11:23 p.m.

Compiled from reports at UK Police Department by staff writer Keith Smiley. E-mail ksmiley@kyker.com.

ALCOHOL RESEARCH STUDIES AT UK

- UK's Alcohol Research Center in the Department of Psychology is conducting a number of studies involving the effects of alcohol on behavior
- Participants should be between 21-35 years of age for alcohol studies
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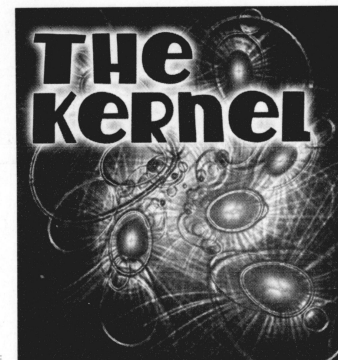
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Hair Police captures audience with atonal niche

Since 2001, the Hair Police have made some of the most vicious noise put to record in this city or any other. The core members — Robert Beatty, Trevor



JOHN CROWELL
Kernel columnist

and Mike Connelly — have toured the United States and Europe, shared bills with Sonic Youth and released albums on national record labels. The individual members have gone on to moonlight in national and local acts like Wolf Eyes, Burning Star Core and Eyes and Arms of Smoke. However, you wouldn't notice the Hair Police's national infamy as a resident of Lexington. The group inhabits a tiny musical niche: totally atonal and ear-splitting noise. I was exposed to their recordings through working at WRFL, UK's student radio station, where the members of the Hair Police originally met — two of them still work there. Tremaine, the drummer, and Beatty, who plays electronic devices, agreed to answer a few of my questions about the history of the band.

Q: How did the Hair Police start?
R: Trevor and I have been playing music, mostly weird pop stuff, together since we were in middle school in Nicholasville, Ky.

Trevor: We started to get involved at WRFL in late 1999. It was our first year out of high

school, and neither one of us was going to college or really had anything else going on, so we were just working s---y jobs and playing music in Jessamine County. When we came to the station, we met Mike (Connellly), who was the training director then. He turned us on to all sorts of crazy sounds and introduced us to the sorta freak scene that was happening in Lexington at that time.

R: We started a f---ed-up electronics duo called S---t Blizzard that played a couple shows with some other bands that Mike, Matt (Minter), and Ross (Compton) were in. We started playing with them and turned into Hair Police in January of 2001.

Q: What do you want the Hair Police to sound like? Do you have lots of atonal and noise musical influences, or is it something you wanted to experiment with independently?
Trevor: The aim of Hair Police was always to obliterate a rational and formally structured approach to music, something that was 100 percent emotion in a malleable form. When we say we have "songs," that means a sort of loose blueprint for a particular atmosphere we want to create. This can involve patterns, rhythms, notes, etc. — or not.

R: We're all into weird music, but usually people who are into weird music are the most open-minded musically, which was definitely the case with Hair Police. There are way more influences that go into what we do than just noise music. Psychedelic rock/pop, free jazz, power electronics, musique concrete, experimental techno, weirdo synth records, glam rock and the Beach Boys. I can't really

deny anything as an influence, because it all seeps in somewhere.

Q: What instrumentation do you use? There are obviously drums, but live I notice Robert playing a collection of electronic devices and Mike playing guitar sometimes and bass other times. Is there an official instrument lineup? Have you experimented with other instruments/musicians?
R: Currently, live in Hair Police, I play a Qualitone Acoustic Appraiser, which is a device that is used to test hearing, and a small Casio keyboard that I have customized to make some sounds that it doesn't normally make. On recordings, I use whatever equipment I have.

There are a lot of things that work better in a studio setting, or that are just too big or unreliable to use live.

Trevor: When we record, it's basically whatever. We've done plenty of drumless sessions, and Mike has even done some without guitar. Oddly, it doesn't affect the overall sound/vibe that much. Live, however, we pretty much do the rock band thing.

Q: What has touring been like? Are there parts of the United States and other countries that are especially receptive or non-receptive to noise music?
R: Touring has been great. It's definitely easier now that people know who we are, or at least know the name. The tour we did with Sonic Youth was definitely a challenge, but I think we came out better in the end. It was rough some nights and we definitely got some weird and cold receptions, but it was awesome. For the most part, though, when we do tours

on our own the reception has been good.

Trevor: Allentown, Pa., bears particularly fond memory. I seriously thought we were going to die. At no point in the show were there less than two girls with their heads in the kick drum!

R: We played to probably 300 people in both Paris and London, twice, and that was pretty unbelievable. It's a big difference between playing there and playing a basement in Bloomington, Ind., to 30 people, but they are both awesome in their own way. As long as people are psyched and have a good time, we're happy, no matter how many people are there.

Q: What do you see as the future of the Hair Police? Will you continue to be based out of Lexington?
Trevor: I love Lexington for the same reason as a lot of people complain about it — there's not much going on. The really good music and art that emerges from here might as well be from another planet; it's so far removed from what's going on in the major American cultural centers. It's like a potato farm in Chernobyl.

R: As long as we are here we will be making records and touring. There is still so much that we haven't done, so I don't see us stopping anytime soon. I don't have any plans to leave Lexington at the moment, but you never know. I like it here.

The Hair Police will play on Saturday at the Void Skateshop with Handicapper Horns and Tight Leather. For more information, go to the Insane Underground Music Web site (www.charlesmansion.org).

OPINIONS

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

For Lexington's sake, mayor should lobby for higher education

Mayor Jim Newberry was correct in stressing how important higher education institutions like UK, Transylvania University, and Bluegrass Community and Technical College are to Lexington's future in his State of the Merged Government address Monday. Many qualified graduates are leaving the city and state, pursuing careers in larger job markets. If Newberry hopes to establish more high-paying jobs in the equestrian, high-tech and health-care fields, as he said in the address, it won't be enough to make those opportunities available in Lexington — it will also take a population of capable workers qualified for such jobs. That means improving universities to turn out higher-quality graduates.

"We must jealously guard that reputation so that the young people here tonight will have the opportunity to obtain a quality education without having to leave our community," Newberry said in the address.

This is all well and fine, but the mayor declined to give specific plans on how to continue to improve local higher education. Slogans sound nice, but specific plans work much better in the long run.

One thing Newberry can do immediately is aid President Lee Todd and other education leaders in pushing the General Assembly to keep funding as high as possible for higher education despite statewide budget cuts.

In an address last night, Gov. Steve

Beshear said his budget proposal would include cuts for higher education. Such a drop in funding will not aid Kentucky students in their future, it will not aid the state in educating future generations, and it will certainly not — as Newberry wants to accomplish — persuade Central Kentucky high school graduates to go to college locally.

Newberry and Lexington, as well as the state as a whole, have as much invested in the progress of state universities as the students do. Few of the opportunities for economic expansion or high-paying jobs that Newberry desires are going to be attracted to a community where college graduates are sub-par compared to national competitors.

Newberry did note in his address that Beshear said he would financially back two city projects: improvements at the Kentucky Horse Park and runway construction at Blue Grass Airport. These projects are important in preparing the city for the 2010 World Equestrian Games, Newberry said.

That may be, and the city probably will benefit from such projects. But it is also important for the mayor and state leaders to realize that after the world leaves when the games are done, UK, Transylvania and BCTC will still be here and will still be graduating students.

The state of those students' education should be as great a concern to how Lexington is viewed by the world as the games themselves.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Repeal wage regulation to ease budget crisis

In the current age of state and federal fiscal irresponsibility, Gov. Steve Beshear should be praised for tightening the state's purse strings during a time of economic downturn. However, instead of offsetting Kentucky's current initiatives to improve state education by cutting state funding, Beshear should examine current laws that needlessly inflate the state budget.

State Rep. Tim Moore recently suggested repealing the prevailing-wage law, but the debate was silenced by representatives of union districts. The prevailing-wage law forces contractors who are building government facilities to pay the typical wage of similar construction workers in the region. Yet, due to the current calculation method, union wages are disproportionately weighted.

In 2002 alone, this loophole inflated

ed wages 24 percent and added 7 percent to overall state construction costs. During that year, the cost to taxpayers was an eye-popping \$137 million. The cost of this market manipulation is passed on to UK through higher costs within its capital expansion plan. Students are affected by slower faculty improvements and higher tuition.

As students and residents of Kentucky, we should demand that our tax dollars and tuition be spent by the most efficient means. Help Beshear and President Lee Todd balance their budgets. Call your state representative and tell him or her to let market conditions determine the wage of Kentucky construction workers and to repeal the prevailing-wage law.

Jeb Duke
M.B.A. student

Is a diversity VP worth the salary costs?

I am writing in regards to the mass e-mail from President Lee Todd announcing the hiring of Judy "JJ" Jackson as "the university's first vice president for institutional diversity." I feel I must applaud President Todd and UK administrators not only for recognizing the dire need for such a position, but especially for the courage it must have taken to add Dr. Jackson to the payroll despite severely minimized funding from the commonwealth. I am proud that UK has avoided making a short-sighted and politically convenient hiring decision that could jeopardize Kentucky's intellectual growth and emergence as a national economic leader in the coming twentieth century.

But please, do not thank me for all

this praise! I speak on behalf of all UK students, especially the undergraduates who toil relentlessly to further their educations, often working degrading night-time jobs and taking out loans from dubious lenders. It is very rewarding to know that our hard-earned tuition dollars will soon be going to Dr. Jackson's salary as compensation for her illustrious career experience, which, according to a Google search, includes her invaluable doctorate in administration, planning, and social policy.

Here's to you, Mrs. First Vice President for Institutional Diversity!

Dwight Nagel
English Sophomore

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Linsen Li. Be sure to include your full name, class, major and phone number (for confirmation).

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Columnists Needed

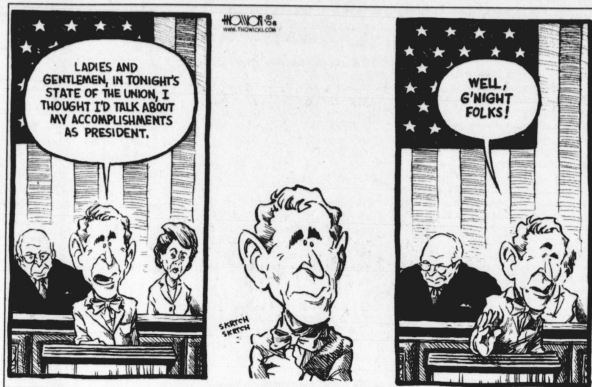
The Kernel is looking for columnists, especially whose with an interest in campus and local issues, to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Weekly Poll Question

Should higher education be an exception to statewide budget cuts?

Vote online at www.kykernel.com



TERRENCE NOWICKI, The Western Front

High primary turnout good sign for Democrats this election year

I have good news for everybody. This year, we are electing a new president. After eight miserable years of ineffective and downright terrible leadership...



ROBERT KAHNE
Contributing columnist

As simply as I can put it: Each state holds a primary election or caucus (an archaic form of voting that involves grouping people together and does away with the secret ballot) to determine who receives its pledged delegates (folks who will vote for a candidate at the party's convention). These delegates are ei-

ther fully awarded to the winner of the election, or divided up among all the candidates on a proportional basis.

In addition to pledged delegates, however, unpledged delegates will attend the convention and vote for whomever they want. Unpledged delegates are usually former officeholders and important people within the party. Whoever receives the most votes at the convention will become the party's nominee and represent that party in the general election in November.

This process makes it nearly impossible to determine who is "winning" in my eyes is the Democratic Party. We have set records for turnout in each state that awarded delegates — Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina. (Michigan and Florida were stripped of their delegates for rules violations.)

In South Carolina, Democratic

primary voters outnumbered Republican primary voters for the first time

The winds of change are blowing. This country is ready for a new direction in leadership, away from the divisiveness and war-mongering style of George W. Bush.

since 1992. In Iowa, more than 220,000 Democrats voted, shattering the previous record of around 140,000.

The winds of change are blowing. This country is ready for a new direction in leadership, away from the divisiveness and war-mongering style of George W. Bush and the Republican Party, and toward the unifying message of the Democrats, who have plans to change the direction of the country. I personally can't wait for this election — it's going to be a great chance to change the direction of this country for the better.

Robert Kahne is the president of UK College Democrats. E-mail rkahne@gmail.com.

Sound bites en español don't cut it for appealing to Hispanic community

The operative word on the 2008 campaign trail is "change." But a more insightful perspective comes from the catch phrase, "keeping it real."



GEORGE DIAZ
Syndicated columnist

So will the real Mitt Romney stand up, please? Are you the guy who wants the national language of the United States to be English, or the guy airing ads in Spanish, with your son touting your qualifications to be El Presidente?

Are you a man who "loves immigrants," or the guy who is blasting rival John McCain for embracing "amnesty" as a solution to deal with the volatile issue of illegal immigrants?

Translation: I don't like foreigners in my country, but I sure would love your vote!

And what of John Edwards, who also placed campaign information in español on his Web site, while saying that English needs to be a requirement for U.S. citizenship?

In any language, the immigration crisis is something the next president is going to have to deal with, and pronto, after Congress caved in to the bombastic opposition stuck in "deport them all" rhetoric.

On the list of issues, immigration is important, although more critical talking points include Iraq, health care, the economy, and energy and

oil. But conversation on those topics can get buried in the rumbblings of the anti-immigration crowd, which keeps those e-mails coming with dispatches like this one:

"The avowed plan of the alien Mexican nationals is the ultimate overthrow of the United States, and the failure to acknowledge this and attempt to stop it is enhancing their goal. The rant of the Mexican marchers For La Raza (the Mexican race) everything. For the white man nothing."

I would like to think the Mexican agenda isn't as challenging; perhaps just trying to find a bit of economic breathing room instead of storming every Starbucks and demanding that only cafe con leche be served from now on, the first meaningful step of any effective revolution. Without our triple venti espresso decafs, we are nothing.

The ideological tightrope is challenging for every candidate. Just ask Hillary Clinton after stumbling on the question of driver's licenses for illegal immigrants in New York.

Quite the quandary. You covet the Hispanic vote, but the indignant sound bites play better to the Viva America! crowd that has as much contempt for an immigrant as a cockroach crawling on your leather couch.

As with any election, it's all about the scoreboard. The Tomas Rivera Policy Institute at the University of Southern California projects that 9.3 million Latino voters will likely go to the polls for the 2008 presidential election, marking an increase of 1.7 million Latino votes from Election Day 2004.

And it's obvious they're likely not to buy the pseudo-Hispanic outreach of "Yo soy Mitt Romney," who probably couldn't tell a burrito from a

chimichanga. Republicans saw their support base among Hispanics shrink

In any language, the immigration crisis is something the next president is going to have to deal with, and pronto, after Congress caved in to the bombastic opposition.

from 44 percent in the 2004 elections to 29 percent in 2006.

"The trick is, you've got to try to balance these interests and not yield to one or another extreme," said Marcos Marchena, an Orlando attorney who is heading the Hispanic Leadership Council for the Republican Party of Florida, and also a supporter of McCain.

"You have to find a balance. That's why I supported McCain even before immigration became an issue. He tried to find a solution. A lot of other folks are basically running around saying this is a big problem but still haven't come up with a proposal on how to deal with the problem. You're just a naysayer, then. My focus is to try to keep the conversation civil, and try to get people to move away from their extremes."

Sounds like a good game plan for the next administration. At some point, the next president of the United States is going to have to lead the way on this and find an answer that's more substantive than the fluff of a sound bite en español.

Comprende, everybody? George Diaz is a columnist for the Orlando Sentinel. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Tennis hopes to stay perfect against U of L

By Laura Pepper
lpepper@kykernel.com

When the women's tennis team faces Louisville today at the Hilary J. Boone Complex, the Cats will be putting a couple of individual undefeated streaks on the line.

UK enters the match at 1 p.m. today boasting a 3-0 start, which has propelled the Cats to a No. 26 ranking. But more importantly, UK comes into today's showdown with a perfect 14-0 record against the Cardinals.

Although Megan Broderick is just a freshman and will be playing in her first UK-U of L rivalry, she expects the match to be as close as ever as the Cards try to end the streak.

"In past years, all of the matches have been really intense and close," Broderick said. "We will all be motivated to do well. This week is very important — every match is just as important as the next. Everyone is extra-focused, I'm excited to go out there and play."

With the success that UK has had over U of L (1-1) and the fast start the Cats are off to, head coach Carlos Drada is hoping that fan support is high for the rivalry this afternoon.

"It will be awesome if people can go," Drada said. "It is a fun event to watch. A large crowd is positive for the team, because they help them through tough situations."

UK dominated U of L, 6-1 last season at the Bass-Rudd Tennis Center in Louisville, but the Cats only return sophomores Christine Johnston, Whitney Spencer and Sarah Woestmann from last year's match. Meanwhile, the Cards have four returning players from a year ago in sophomore Jo-Ann Van Aerde, junior Natalia Baez, junior Bianca Gorbea and senior Robyn White.

While U of L has more upperclassmen and experience than UK — the Cats have no seniors on the team

and only one junior — UK is not fazed by its lack of inexperience, Broderick said.

"They have more experience, yeah, but we have a lot of hunger because our team is younger," she said.

The key to beating the Cards for the 15th consecutive time will be the Cats' ability to focus and stay disciplined in each individual match, Drada said. UK could also use a quick start by winning one of the doubles matches out of the gate to gain some early momentum, he added.

"We need to focus and keep the energy high and focus on each individual match," Broderick said.

The Cats have had focus on individual matches so far, losing just three individual matches in three team competitions this season.

UK won its third straight match of the year Sunday, conquering then-No. 25 Michigan 7-0. UK swept the court in singles, and only lost once in doubles.

"We had a really good performance," Drada said. "The girls were really focused on the small details. They worked on their discipline and focus in tough situations."



ED MATHEWS | STAFF
Freshman Megan Broderick hits a backhand shot during the Cats' match against Winthrop on Jan. 19.

BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Injury bug continues to bite Cats' roster

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

In a season full of ups and downs, there has been one constant for the men's basketball team this year: injuries.

The injury bug has affected nearly half of the Cats' roster this season, and that was no different when UK took the court against South Carolina on Saturday without senior guard Joe Crawford.

Crawford was slated to play up until an hour before the game, when team doctors decided his plantar fasciitis, a painful foot injury, would not allow him to play, head coach Billy Gillispie said after the game Saturday. In Crawford's absence, sophomore guard Jodie Meeks got his first Southeastern Conference start of the season, scoring 13 points in a season-high 38 minutes of play.

Preseason injuries to sophomore guard Derrick Jasper and junior center Jared Carter were only the first of many more injuries UK has been plagued by this year. In all, six UK players have missed playing time due to injury throughout the season, which includes freshman forward Patrick Patterson and sophomore guard Michael Porter.

Jasper and Meeks have been the most affected by the injury bug as both players continue to shake off early season injuries. Meeks' season-high 38 minutes in the win over USC might indicate he is nearing full strength, but Meeks said he still has some setbacks.

"I'm a little sore," Meeks said after the game. "I probably won't be 100 percent for a while."

But according to Gillispie, having Jasper and Meeks back is part of the reason UK has been enjoying some newfound success lately.

"Having Derrick and Jodie back makes all the difference," Gillispie said.

Gillispie goes old-school

Ask any coach and they'll tell you turnovers are a team's worst enemy.

Yet, when senior guard Ramel Bradley attempted a behind-the-back



Sophomore guard Jodie Meeks dribbles against South Carolina on Saturday at Rupp Arena. Meeks played a season-high 38 minutes against the Gamecocks.

ELLIOTT HESS
STAFF

pass that flew out of bounds and cost UK two crucial points with a little over 13 minutes remaining in Saturday's game, Gillispie wasn't angry at his point guard.

"I really didn't mind the behind-the-back pass play that went out of bounds," Gillispie said. "I love behind-the-back passes. I think it is fun for fans, but I didn't think that was the particular time for that pass because (USC guard) Devan Downey had three fouls at that point, and I thought we should have attacked the basket to force him to make a decision of whether to foul or allow the basket."

Bradley said that Gillispie doesn't really care how the ball arrives at its destination, as long as it ends up in the basket.

"Coach has always told us that he doesn't care if I throw it behind the back, through my legs or put it under my jersey and swing it out," Bradley said. "The thing that coach is concerned with is finishing the play."

Gillispie said in the post-game news conference that he loved watching old-school players like Bob Cousy make behind-the-back passes. Gillispie even joked that there might be footage of him making a few fancy dishes during his

playing days.

"If there is (tape) then I want to see him doing it," Bradley said.

Stevenson toughens up in the post

When scouting UK's frontcourt, the one name that generally stands out is freshman phenom Patrick Patterson.

While UK may seem one-dimensional in its low post set so far this year, Patterson has been receiving a little bit of help lately from another young frontcourt partner: sophomore forward Perry Stevenson.

Stevenson, who averages 4.9 points and 3.9 rebounds a game, exploded last week against Tennessee and USC. Stevenson scored 14 points, grabbed seven boards and pitched five blocks in 37 minutes against the Vols. Against the Gamecocks, Stevenson went 6-for-6 at the free-throw line and 3-of-8 from the field for 12 points and five rebounds.

For a team that spent much of the non-conference schedule looking for its identity, Stevenson seems to have found his.

"Unless you're tough, you won't survive," Stevenson said after the South Carolina game. "And that's what I'm trying to bring to the team."

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