

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

DanceBlue fundraiser uses Web

By Alle Rorie
news@kykernel.com

DanceBlue has incorporated fundraising into an activity that most college students do on a daily basis — Internet searches.

The 24-hour dance marathon, which raises money for the UK Pediatric Oncology Clinic, has partnered with GoodSearch.com to raise more funds.

GoodSearch.com is an Internet search engine, similar to Google and Yahoo, that donates half of all of its revenue to non-profit organizations.

For every Internet search conducted in DanceBlue's name, two cents are donated to the cause. Also, when users shop through GoodSearch.com, a portion of their purchase will be donated to charity.

"Registering with GoodSearch was extremely easy to do," said Dave Ritchie, DanceBlue chairman. "We began to make money instantly."

This is the first year since the event started three years ago that DanceBlue has used GoodSearch.com as a fundraising method, and supporters have conducted 16,546 searches to date, raising a total of \$174.45 for DanceBlue through searches and purchases.

"We are hoping it will catch on with students, faculty, staff, alumni and all those involved with the organization," said Meg Phillips, the DanceBlue marketing chair. "I'm excited to see how much we can raise for DanceBlue through GoodSearch."

Since DanceBlue has registered with GoodSearch.com, the number of Internet searches conducted under DanceBlue's name has multiplied.

In September, 74 Internet searches were conducted through GoodSearch.com. In October, the number multiplied more than 100 times with 7,615 searches, and in November, the numbers stayed up with 7,407 searches. So far, 1,206 searches have been conducted in December, said Nate Simon, DanceBlue's corporate relations chair.

"With time, we hope that we will have enough supporters using GoodSearch.com that we can generate several thousand dollars a year through Internet searches," Ritchie said. "In the meantime, DanceBlue will rely on other fundraising methods."

The most successful fundraising method that DanceBlue uses is team fundraising, Ritchie said. The marathon participants create teams of at least five people to raise money for the event.

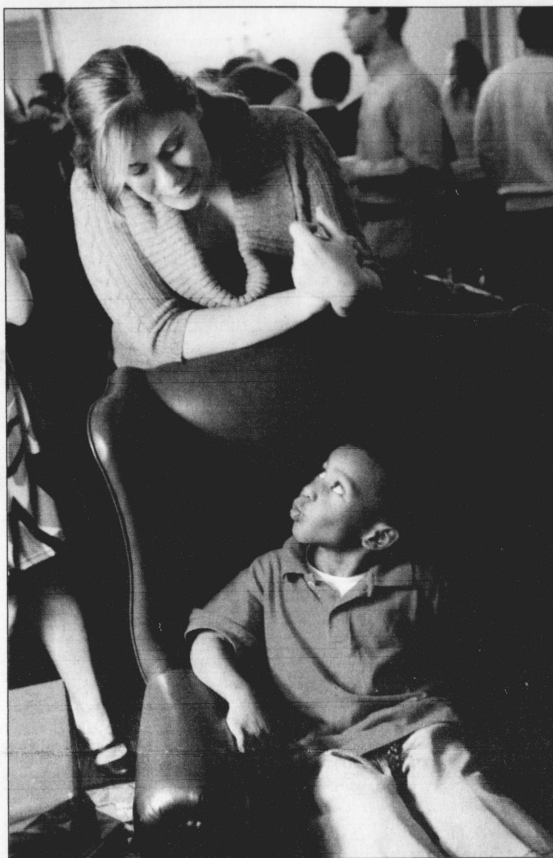
"Teams are the most important part of DanceBlue because the only way we can have a marathon is with dancers, and to be a dancer you must be part of a team," said Alex McIrvine, teams recruitment captain. "GoodSearch.com is a way that DanceBlue in general is fundraising, but the way the teams are fundraising is totally up to them."

Some methods DanceBlue teams have used in the past include bake sales, gift wrapping for Amazon.com and "canning," or standing outside events such as basketball games with coffee cans for donations.

Additionally, DanceBlue is conducting a letter drive, where it will send letters to dancers and team members' family and friends asking for donations. DanceBlue has also received support from local corporations.

Last year 60 student organizations and 317 student dancers raised \$241,514.64 for DanceBlue. This year 75 student organizations are involved.

To conduct an Internet search to benefit DanceBlue, go to the GoodSearch Web site (www.goodsearch.com) and select "DanceBlue" under the "Who do you GoodSearch for?" toolbar.



BRITNEY MCINTOSH | STAFF

DeJuan George, a five-year-old kindergarten student at Johnson Elementary School, makes a face at Amber Hall, a psychology and sociology senior, last night before he opened gifts at a Christmas party at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house.

Season of Sharing

Sorority, fraternity team up to bring children gifts and smiles

By Calvin Hobson
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Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority and Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity worked together last night to provide 19 children who attend Johnson Elementary School with gifts and laughter at the fraternity's and sorority's 10th-annual Christmas Party.

The children were nominated by their teachers to participate in the event. After the students made their Christmas gift lists, SAE and AOPi collected more than \$3,000 to buy gifts from each of the students' list.

"It's funny because usually each kid wants something different," said Andrea Frye, vice president of communication for AOPi. "But this year a lot of them wanted toy cars or some kind of electronic."

See **Christmas** on page 5



RASHA STENSSON | STAFF

A member of the Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority puts presents for children from Johnson Elementary School under the Christmas tree at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house.

Students discuss religious diversity

By Jossey Montana McCoy
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The fifth and final Diversity Dialogue of the semester focused on religious diversity last night at the Student Center.

The panel dialogue was moderated by mining engineering graduate student Mehmet Saracoglu and included four students representing different religious faiths. Student Diversity Engagement and the Interfaith Dialogue Organization organized the dialogue.

Panelists, who said they are not religious scholars, explained the general concept of their religious beliefs, answered two questions each, and then took questions from the audience.

Social work graduate student Jonathan Goodan represented the Catholic faith and read passages from the Eucharist representing the main beliefs of the Catholic Church.

Biology and Islamic studies senior Yahya Ahmed represented Islam and said he wanted to explain why his religion is important to him and why it is what he believes in.

"It is a religion of action — not just of believing, but doing," he said.

His uncle defined the necessity of praying five times a day to him at a young age, Ahmed said.

"He said, 'If you don't eat three times a day, you'll get weaker and starve. If you don't pray five times a day, you'll get weaker and starve,'" Ahmed said.

Political science and communications junior Drew Trimble represented the Church of Christ faith.

The basis of Christianity is the Bible, Trimble said.

"The Bible is our standard," he said. "It's our foundation. We are to live our life, every day, by this book."

When asked by an audience member about stereotypes of Christians as close-minded and judgmental, Trimble said he disagreed.

"I just don't think so. I think (Christianity) is very open," he said, adding that Christians are meant to meet standards that are in the Bible.

"If that's close-minded, I guess we're all in trouble," Trimble said. Corey Kline represented the Jewish faith, and she said one of the main rules to live by as a Jew is striving to repair the world. Many famous people belong or belonged to the faith, she said, including "Adam Sandler, Jesus and lots of other cool people."

About 90 people attended last night's Diversity Dialogue. Not all were affiliated with religious beliefs.

English senior Casey Lyons said she attended the dialogue because she is an atheist who was raised in a devout Southern Baptist family, which gives her a unique perspective.

"I can appreciate both the side of the atheist and the side of the religious person, and I think there's beauty in both of those things even though I'm an atheist now," she said.

See **Squirrels** on page 5

UK guards against squirrels after critters cause power outages



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

Squirrels are an accepted part of UK's campus and go unnoticed by many passers-by. But in the last two months, squirrels have caused four power outages in different areas of campus.

By Jill Lester
jlester@kykernel.com

Squirrels: they're cute, they're fuzzy and they've been causing power outages all over campus.

In response to four power outages in the last two months, the university is now installing about \$100,000 in guards to keep squirrels from shorting the power and killing themselves, said Richard McClure, a physical plant division manager at UK.

"We've had that problem on and off for several years," McClure said. "There's always some kind of varmint that gets in your substations."

A burst of cold weather at the end of last winter affected the squirrels' food supply, which could be one of the contributors to this semester's squirrel problems, he said. "All the fruit got killed off by

the frost of spring," McClure said. "The frost was hard on the critters."

UK will split 841 squirrel guards between the campus' three power substations. The dome-shaped guards will cover each station's multiple insulators.

Squirrels that are looking for a space to stay or for food will jump from outside the station to the insulators and metal wiring, McClure said, which kills them instantly.

When squirrels enter the station and crawl over the insulators, they sometimes touch the electrical wiring and steel support structure at the same time. This creates a bridge between the two, which bypasses the insulators and results in a short in the power.

"I don't think they detect it at all until they get zapped, and then they get fried," said Richard W. Thorington, the curator of mammals at the National Museum of Natural History

at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

While the casualty rate of squirrels is high — about half of the population of squirrels born at the same time will die within a year — the species has evolved to survive natural threats like bad weather and man-made ones, like electrical boxes, Thorington said.

"They're very successful, they're very innovative," Thorington said, "and most of the time you learn to live with it."

At UK, the primary concern when squirrels crawl into the electrical stations is the hospital, research labs and the university's safety systems, said Bob Wiseman, UK's vice president for facilities management. However, any power outage at the hospital is "just a flicker" lasting a few seconds, he said, because UK

See **Squirrels** on page 5

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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 — Money's tight, partially due to your own champagne tastes. Don't go into debt to keep up with your richer friends, however. You'd get into a situation that's way more uncomfortable than where you are now.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 7 — Let somebody else fight your dragons for you. This is not cheating. It's smart in this situation. Get a person who knows what they're doing to be your knight in shining armor.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 5 — There's no point trying to run away from a task that must be completed. Don't even think about that for now. Concentrate and avoid

distractions.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 7 — Make up your wish list and be generous, at least on paper. You can't have all that stuff yet, but it's fun to be specific. It gives you something to work for.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 7 — Does somebody else's intention interfere with your plans? No need to pitch a fit — you can talk this over like adults. No throwing food, either.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — Use extreme caution around fragile items. Don't allow cats or little children to participate until all the delicate heirlooms are high up and out of the way.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 6 — Not a good time to gamble or to fund a fantasy. Projects begun now are likely to be more expensive than the estimates. Wait until tomorrow.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — Confer with your loved ones and you will find a wealth of innovation. Teach without squelching young imaginations. Don't tell

everything — maintain the mystery.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — You may have to spin a tale to divert attention. Don't lie, you're not very good at that. Get them to think about something other than what you're trying to hide.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — Hold onto your wallet, it's under assault. There are so many worthy causes, how can you choose? Decide how much you can afford, and then which of them will spend it well.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 6 — Don't bother to try to convince a person who isn't listening. That won't work, not with words, anyway. You might do it with your actions. Try hugs, if appropriate.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 7 — Protect your most secret hopes and desires by not sharing them right now. When somebody asks you what you want, say you're still thinking about it. Meanwhile, think about it.

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THE DISH

By Chuck Barney
Contra Costa Times

Most television fans best know Emmy winner Michael Imperioli as Christopher Moltisanti, the hotheaded young mobster who was brutally whacked by Tony (James Gandolfini) shortly before "The Sopranos" ended its critically lauded run earlier this year.

But now that David Chase's landmark crime drama is in the books, Imperioli, 41, is looking to expand his resume with new roles and varied characters. Next year, he'll appear in feature film "The Lovely Bones." And Sunday he returns to prime time as the main protagonist in "Oprah Winfrey Presents: Mitch Albom's For One More Day" (9 p.m. EST, ABC).

With shades of "It's a Wonderful Life," the movie has Imperioli playing Chick Benetto, a boozing, washed-up baseball player whose thoughts of suicide are interrupted by a magical visit from his mother's ghost (Ellen Burstyn), who shows him the error of his ways.

Also appearing in the film is Imperioli's 7-year-old son, Vadim, who plays Chick in childhood flashbacks. It's Vadim's first screen role.

We caught up with Imperioli recently to talk about the film and life after "The Sopranos."

Q: What do you like about this character and why did you want to play him?

A: I like playing people for whom the stakes are very high — people who are struggling

with something in their lives. This is a guy who never quite lived up to who he wanted to be. He had a taste of his dream (a short stint in the majors), but it died on the vine when he was very young. And because it died, he can't accept himself and he gets lost in alcohol. It's a very honest, relatable story and, hopefully, viewers will feel compassion for him.

Q: How fun was it watching your son make his screen debut with this film?

A: I was a very proud dad. The only other real acting he had done was in a play about a year and half ago that my wife and I produced. He has great instincts and I thought he handled the material pretty well.

Q: What was his reaction when he saw the final cut? Was he happy with the job he did?

A: He said, "I think I could have done better." That's what he hears me say all the time.

Q: I've heard you're a big Yankees fan. So did it bother you to put on the uniform of the Mets — the team Chick plays for?

A: It didn't bother me any more, or any less, than having to dismember a torso for "The Sopranos."

Q: How was it working with an actress with the stature of Ellen Burstyn?

A: She's just so impressive. She's a very smart woman, who makes intelligent choices. She's emotionally honest. There are no false moments with her. ... There's a scene where our char-

acters are supposed to be talking in a cemetery and she suggested (to the director) we do it while sitting up against a tombstone. It wound up retaining the reverence of the scene, but gave it a casual quality that really made for a wonderful moment. Like I say, a smart woman.

Q: The character you play in the film is rather tragic, partially because he will never again experience that glorious high that came with playing big league baseball. Do you ever find yourself wondering if you'll experience anything so culturally powerful as "The Sopranos"?

A: I realize that could be a once-in-lifetime kind of thing, but I'm pretty good at moving on and trying new things. I don't have to be in the top 10 to be happy. So, I don't miss it and I don't look to the past.

Q: The "Sopranos" controversial finale got a lot of attention, but one of the most memorable moments of the last season is the scene in which Tony suffocated you after a car crash. Is that the way you wanted to go out?


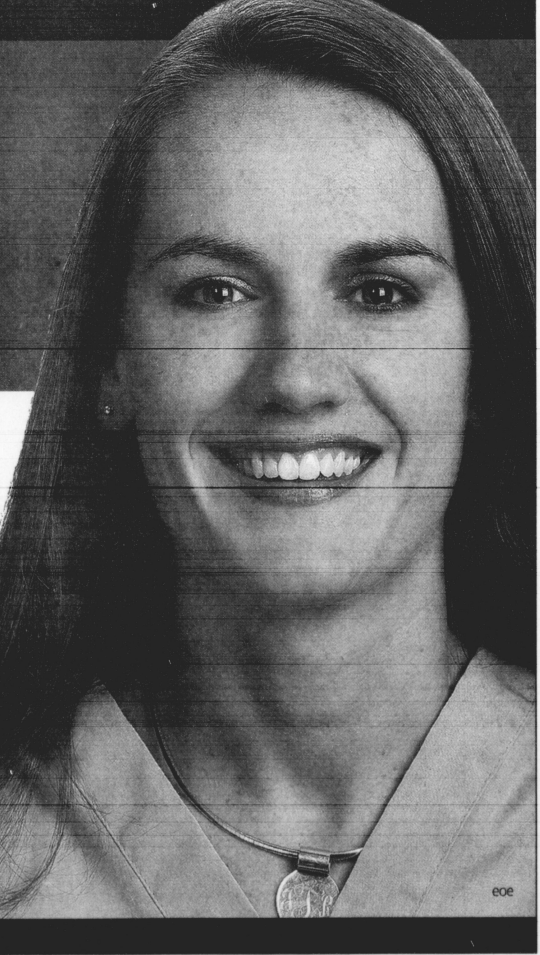
A: I thought it was a great idea. David told me about it about a year ahead of time, and I was totally on board. I thought it was a great way to go out — the fact that Tony was like a father figure to me and I was like his wayward son. And through the nature of what we (the characters) do, this brutal, awful thing happens between them. It was somehow fitting.

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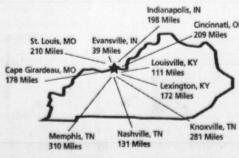
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“ You have to be patient when it gets like this. You always need hope. You're fighting for something positive to come out of a really bad year. What you look for is a sign of hope that the future will get better. Hey, the only way they can go is up.”

— Dan Marino, Hall of Fame quarterback, on the possibility of the Miami Dolphins going winless

Hitting the slopes

Snowcats gear up for a trip to the Rockies to start the new year

By Sara Tracy
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While many students are using the winter break to hibernate after crunch-time study hours, the UK Snowcats will be hitting the slopes in Colorado.

The Snowcats, UK's largest student organization with more than 300 students, will be traveling to Steamboat Springs, Colo., for its annual week of skiing and snowboarding.

"The club gives students the opportunity to experience a very relaxed environment different from the structured pressures of daily student life," said Snowcats president Anthony Richie, one of about 240 members going on the trip.

"The trip is a way to discover how much fun skiing and snowboarding really are."

ANTHONY RICHIE
Snowcats president

On Jan. 1, the Snowcats will head to the slopes of the Rocky Mountains to take on the snow-capped ranges. The trip is always the week before the Spring semester of classes start.

In recent years, the Snowcats have traveled to Colorado resorts such as the ones in Telluride, Breckenridge, Copper Mountain and Aspen. The group has also gone to Jackson Hole, Wyo., and plans to return there for its Spring Break trip.

The cost for this year's Winter Break trip is \$500, which includes transportation, lodging at a resort in Steamboat Springs, lift tickets and social events. The price is well worth it, said Stuart Hellebusch, an art studio senior.

"It's a great deal for the money," said Hellebusch, who joined Snowcats three years ago. "These trips are what I like to do, and they're fun."

Richie, an agricultural communications senior and a veteran skier, said he encourages people of all skill levels to join the Snowcats on the slopes.

"The trip is a way to discover how much fun skiing and snowboarding really are," Richie said. "Many students are under the impression that you have to be a good

See **Snowcats** on page 4



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Anthony Richie, an agricultural communications senior and president of the Snowcats, is one of about 240 students headed to the Rocky Mountains on Jan. 1 for a weeklong ski trip.

FSU has tradition that the Cats want

Rich Brooks and his players said they are excited to be going back to Nashville to play in the Music City Bowl. They should be. The game is a big name for a non-Bowl Championship Series bowl, the stadium and city are great, and the stands will be jam-packed with blue and white.



JONATHAN SMITH
Kernel columnist

But how excited should they be? They were there just last year, when they defeated Clemson 28-20. The feeling and magnitude of that bowl win, UK's first since 1984, can never be matched or repeated. Until this year.

Last year's Music City Bowl was big, but this one is bigger. Why is it bigger? For one reason: Florida State.

Florida State is to college football what the New York Yankees are to baseball. And what the Los Angeles Lakers are to basketball. And what the Dallas Cowboys are to professional football.

If that doesn't strike you, then this will: Florida State is to college football what UK is to college basketball. In other words, the Seminoles are college football.

"It's everything we want," sophomore defensive end Jeremy Jarmon said. "Everyone knows about Florida State."

Florida State's list of excellence is more impressive than former Seminole Peter Warrick's bargain-hunting skills. The Seminoles dominated the 1990s, winning two national championships and eight straight Atlantic Coast Conference championships from 1992 to 1999. They lost only two conference games in that span. Quarterback turned basketballer Charlie Ward won the Heisman Trophy in 1993, and quarterback Chris Weinke won it in 2000.

The accomplishments don't end there. Florida State head coach Bobby Bowden is the winningest coach in major college football history. From 1987 to 2000, the "Noles" finished in the top five of every Associated Press poll, an unprecedented streak that will never be matched. They played in the first three BCS national title games, and they've played in six BCS games overall, the most of any team. That's helped keep alive a streak of 26 consecutive bowl games.

"That's a few," Brooks said, tongue-in-cheek.

See **Smith** on page 4

Crawford brothers set to duel for family bragging rights

By Travis Waldron
twaldron@kykernel.com

Years ago, when Joe and Jordan Crawford were still students with dreams of playing college and pro basketball, the two brothers were the only two kids in their neighborhood that never quit playing ball.

"We were the kids that wanted to play basketball every day," Joe Crawford said. "We played every day. At the parks, in backyards, go to somebody else's house and take over the backyard."

The most popular site was the Crawfords' driveway, where Joe Crawford said he often put his younger brother in his place.

"It was funny," Joe Crawford said. "He'd be out there picking on our little brother, wouldn't let him do anything on him. Then I'd come out there and do the same thing to (Jordan)."

Now, both brothers are college

basketball players, and for the first time since their high school days in the driveway, they will meet tomorrow when Joe Crawford's UK team takes on Jordan Crawford's Indiana Hoosiers.

Joe Crawford didn't hesitate to acknowledge that he wouldn't be able to pick on his younger brother the way he used to.

"It's a little different now," Joe Crawford said. "He's as big as me, and he's more talented."

"More talented than he used to be," Crawford added, just so everyone knew he still held the upper hand.

Jordan Crawford, a freshman guard, is third on the Hoosiers in scoring, averaging 12.6 points per game. He hasn't played since Nov. 24 while serving a three-game suspension for a violation of team rules, but Jordan Crawford will play Saturday, and he's anxious to prove he can hang with his older brother.

When asked if he was better than Joe, Jordan Crawford's answer was short and sweet.

"By far," he said with a laugh. "But Joe Crawford said his brother still has to prove that."

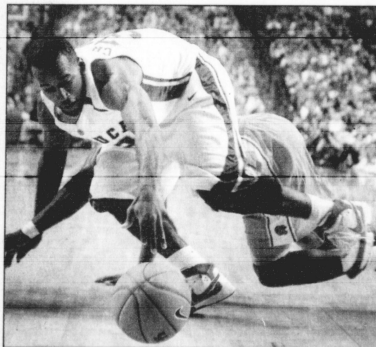
"He's going to have to show it then," Joe Crawford said. "We talk trash" everyday. I'm going to call him right after this meeting. I didn't like that comment a whole lot."

But Joe Crawford does have one advantage Saturday — his parents are on his side.

"They'll be wearing blue," Joe Crawford said. "Because I told them to."

Both brothers know their meeting is an undercard to a rivalry that existed before either of them ever dribbled a basketball. UK and Indiana have squared off 50 times since 1924, with the Cats holding a slim 28-22 edge. UK has won six of the

See **Crawford** on page 4



Senior guard Joe Crawford dives for the ball during UK's 86-77 loss to North Carolina on Saturday at Rupp Arena.

ELLIOTT HESS
STAFF

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Gillispie: Legion wants back, still not on team

By Travis Waldron
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Alex Legion met with head coach Billy Gillispie yesterday about a possible return to the UK basketball team, but Gillispie didn't clear up the already murky situation about the freshman guard during a news conference yesterday.

Legion, who asked for and was granted his release from the team last Friday, decided to transfer from UK on Monday, just six games into his freshman

season. Reports surfaced earlier this week that Legion wanted to return to the team, and Gillispie said he met with the player yesterday morning.

Even though Legion wants to return to the Cats, Gillispie said, he still hasn't returned to the team.

"He's not with the team," Gillispie said. "We talked today for the first time. Alex is a good person, and



Legion

he has the ability to be a good player at some point, and while he was with us he did a good job for us. But when a player chooses to do something different... we move on."

But ultimately, it seemed that Gillispie didn't close the door on Legion's return.

"I have no idea," Gillispie said when asked if he had ruled out a return.

"We met for a little bit,"

Gillispie said. "I said, 'We'll talk.'"

The one thing Gillispie was sure of is that the situation will not be a distraction for the rest of his basketball team heading into the Indiana game tomorrow.

"I think our guys have done a fantastic job not letting that be a distraction for us," Gillispie said. "It has not been a distraction for us and it will not be a distraction for us. There's no way it could have been a distraction for us with the way we've competed in practice."

SMITH

Continued from page 3

check. "We're working on our 12th (overall) bowl game and second in a row."

According to ESPN.com, 40 Seminoles are on NFL rosters. The same source has five UK players on NFL teams. According to Florida State's media guide, 51 former Seminoles have played in the Super Bowl. Around here, people get excited if former Cat Glenn Holt makes one catch for the Cincinnati Bengals.

That type of turnover has hurt the Seminoles. In each of the last three seasons, they've lost at least five games. Still, they are regarded — along with Southern California, Ohio State, Notre Dame and Oklahoma — as one of the lords of college football.

The UK football players openly acknowledge Florida State's place in college football. Neither Brooks nor the players had one nasty thing to say about the Seminoles.

That's because Florida State's program is where UK wants its program to eventually be.

"We're playing for tradition," senior wide receiver Keenan Burton said. "There really hasn't been a great tradition at the University of Kentucky football-wise."

The current Cats have begun to change that. And they can continue to alter the history of the program with a win



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Sophomore defensive end Jeremy Jarmon tries to tackle Mississippi State running back Anthony Dixon during the Cats' 31-14 loss to the Bulldogs on Oct. 27 at Commonwealth Stadium.

in this almost-once-in-a-life-time opportunity.

The Seminoles and the Cats last played each other in 1965. They likely will never play again in the regular season — the Seminoles, remember, didn't have much luck the last time they played an out-of-conference road game against a team from Kentucky when they faced Louisville in 2002.

The Cats and the "Noles have

also never met in a bowl game.

So here's the opportunity, UK: to beat a team that has the name recognition in their sport that UK has in basketball and to continue the quest to one day make UK a national contender. A chance this good might not happen again for a long time.

Jonathan Smith is a journalism senior. E-mail: smith@kykernel.com.

CRAWFORD

Continued from page 3

last seven and 11 of the last 13 meetings between the two, but for the first time since 1990, the game will be played in Bloomington, Ind., a place the Cats have traditionally struggled.

UK is 4-9 all-time in Bloomington and just 2-7 in Assembly Hall.

The two teams traditionally play in either Louisville or Indianapolis, but a scheduling conflict in 2006 moved the game to Rupp Arena and the 2007 game to Assembly Hall.

"I'm not trying to make it individual," Jordan Crawford said of the contest. "It's bigger than that. It's IU versus UK."

The Hoosiers are led by standout freshman guard Eric Gordon, who is averaging 24.3 points per game. Senior forward D.J. White leads IU with 8.6 rebounds per game and is the team's second leading scorer at 14.8 points per game.

It's clear to Joe Crawford that this isn't just another game, whether it's because of a rivalry between two teams or a rivalry between two brothers. White dubbed it the "Crawford Bowl," and though both brothers acknowledged the importance of the actual game, Joe Crawford said he knows how rare it is to play against a sibling.

"I think about it everyday," he said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I'm going to go out there and enjoy it."

SNOWCATS

Continued from page 3

skier to ski out West, but it's actually the opposite.

All the resorts the Snowcats visit, including Steamboat Springs, have quality ski schools and feature a wide range of trails for beginner to advanced skiers, Richie said.

"If a person has never skied before, I

would strongly recommend taking a lesson," Richie said. "Most people take a half-day lesson and are able to ski comfortably after that. Once you've learned the basics, it's kind of like learning to ride a bike — it just sticks."

The Winter Break ski and snowboarding trip may be the biggest among many events for Snowcats members, but the members get more than just a trip to Colorado, Richie said.

Civil engineering sophomore Dale Bugay, who is in his second year as a

Snowcats member, said his Snowcats membership has helped with discounts at different equipment stores. For the activities themselves, the Snowcats receive a discount on season passes from Perfect North Slopes in Indiana.

"We are just a big group of people who love to hang out and have fun," Bugay said.

The Snowcats hold weekly meetings at 8 p.m. Wednesdays in Student Center Room 257. The club dues are \$30 per year, which includes a Snowcats t-shirt.

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Name: Ronald Capshaw Cooker Program: Business Administration Dissertation Title: Quality and Quantity of Motivation in Functional and Dysfunctional Knowledge Sharing Major Professor: Dr. Dan Stone Date: 12/07/2007 Time: 10:30 A.M. Place: 352 Gatton B and E Bldg.	Name: Saurav Datta Program: Chemical Engineering Dissertation Title: Functionalized Polymeric Membranes for Biodegradation and Bioanalysis Major Professor: Dr. Dibakar Bhattacharyya Date: 12/07/2007 Time: 1:30 P.M. Place: #209 CRMS Bldg.	Name: Walter William Wakefield Program: Public Administration Dissertation Title: Medicine Physician Reimbursement Policy and Type of Service Volume Sensitivity Major Professor: Dr. Jeffrey Talbert Date: 12/10/2007 Time: 10:00 A.M. Place: 1645 POT	Name: James Arthur Harlan Program: Geography Dissertation Title: Distressed Public Housing and HOPE VI Rehabilitation: An Analysis of Park Duvalle in Louisville, KY Major Professor: Dr. Richard Schien Date: 12/10/2007 Time: 12:30 P.M. Place: Miller Hall Rm. 6	Name: Ruth Joel Maria Leoro Program: Educational & Counseling Psychology Dissertation Title: An Investigation of the Influence of Multicultural Awareness Major Professor: Dr. Virginia Burn Date: 12/10/2007 Time: 10:00 A.M. Place: TEB 151F	Name: Mary K. Hall Program: English Dissertation Title: AZZagging Feminism: Sodomosochism in the Nineties Heritage Film Major Professor: Dr. Virginia Burn Date: 12/11/2007 Time: 9:00 A.M. Place: 1345 Patterson Office Tower	Name: Hilda Helene Renner Program: Educational & Counseling Psychology Dissertation Title: Influence of Diversity Counts on Undergraduate Educational Program Completion: A Study of Persistence and Completion within a Mastery of Performance Orientation Context Major Professor: Dr. s. Lyley Jordanman and Lynda Brown Date: 12/10/2007 Time: 1:00 P.M. Place: Dickey Hall, Faculty Lounge
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CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 1

The children and their parents arrived at the SAE house at about 7 p.m. and were greeted by members of the fraternity and sorority, along with the smells of pizza and sugar cookies. There was also an appearance by Santa Claus, who was actually senior SAE member Scott Dailey.

"This is my third year as Santa, and it's great, because the kids are always nice to Santa," Bailey said. "They get all the clothes and more boring stuff from the brothers, but they always let Santa give out the good gifts."

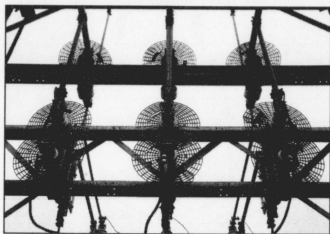
A few of the members on this year's committee are first timers, but they managed to make the event more successful by raising near-

by \$1,000 more than last year, said Jenny Bui, a member of AOP and director of the event. This allowed them to get gifts for more than the usual 10 to 15 students.

The lack of ornaments on the Christmas tree was made up with the many gifts that surrounded the tree, which didn't seem to bother the children. "I'm glad they chose me," said Michael Green, an eight-year-old third grade student. "All I wanted was NFL Madden '08 for my PS2."

The children and the members of the Greek organization weren't the only people who showed their excitement about the event. Parents and grandparents were also in attendance and expressed their thanks to the two organizations.

"This was very nice of them to do this, and I really, really appreciate it," said Natasha Gay, the mother of a child receiving a gift. "It's just good to know that there are people out there who think of someone other than themselves."



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Squirrel guards protect an electrical substation near the VA Hospital on South Campus. The guards are designed so that a squirrel climbing around the substation will not electrocute itself and cause a power outage on campus.

SQUIRRELS

Continued from page 1

has multiple power back-ups. Other universities throughout the state have experienced problems with squirrels, but the physical plant directors from the University of Louisville, Centre College and Transylvania University said they have not had any squirrel-related power outages this year.

"I'd say in the last ten years, we've had maybe three instances," said Larry Jefferies, director of U of L's physical plant division.

However, Wiseman said that a quick Web search will reveal that UK is not alone in its problems with squirrels.

"You'll find that campuses around the country are facing this same problem," Wiseman said. "I think some people on campus think we're making this up."

Electricity problems aren't limited to squirrels, McClure said. Although it has not happened yet this year, possums, raccoons and big birds have made their way through the physical plant department's fences and caused small outages or interferences with UK's electricity.

While animals, especially squirrels, can be irritating sometimes, McClure said it's a problem UK will just have to deal with.

"It's Mother Nature," McClure said. "I mean, you've got to live in harmony with Mother Nature."

Squirrel hunting season means fresh dinner ideas

By Jill Laster
jlaster@kykernel.com

All it takes to kill a squirrel is "a little bit of patience and a good aim," and the result can be one tasty meal, said food writer Jonathan Miles.

With Kentucky in the midst of its squirrel-hunting season, which runs through Feb. 29, those who enjoy the sport can also turn their game into a dinner or two.

"I think it goes back to tradition," said Miles, a food writer for Field and Stream magazine. "There's a very long tradition of squirrel hunting in the South."

After killing the animal, you can skin it like a rabbit and make dinner, Miles said, and then the cook should determine the animal's age.

"A young squirrel can be cooked just like chicken. The meat is not too tough," Miles said. "If you have an older squirrel, you need to braise it."

Frying the squirrel in a pan is a simple, tasty dish that tastes a little stronger than rabbit, and tender like chicken, Miles said.

Another way to prepare squirrels is Brunswick stew, which Miles calls "the ultimate squirrel dish." Brunswick stew, a southern dish, is a tomato-based stew with lima beans, corn, okra, other vegetables and meat — traditionally squirrel or rab-

NEWS BRIEF

Students can stay well caffeinated during Finals Week while they study, as several coffee shops close to campus are extending their hours. Coffee Island, located near the corner of Rose Street and Avenue of Champions, will be open 24 hours now through Friday, Dec. 14. Common Grounds, on East High Street, will be open around the clock from Sunday night through midnight Wednesday. Ovid's Café and Starbucks, located in the library, will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday and will then continue with their regular hours throughout the week.

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■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

Changes needed for Dead Week to be effective

With another Dead Week wrapping up today, UK is once again in the position of needing to rethink the policies concerning the week before finals.

The current policies on Dead Week are ineffective, increasing the burden on students as they prepare for finals. The Kernel reported Dec. 5 that university rules prohibit final exams and take-home exams from taking place during Dead Week, but such narrow regulations make it too easy for professors to find creative ways of weighing down students with assignments.

Prohibiting only final and take-home exams is simply not enough to ease the tension of students preparing for cumulative exams that will follow next week. Regularly scheduled quizzes, for instance, are allowed under current regulations, as long as they were listed on the course's syllabus at the beginning of the semester.

Giving quizzes during Dead Week only stress students further. Students have enough on their plate as they spend countless hours in the library preparing for finals, and knowing that they have to take a test only makes the

end of the semester more dreadful.

Finals week is a time designated for teachers to test the knowledge of their students; it doesn't make sense to allow teachers the opportunity to administer quizzes with such difficult exams right around the corner.

If students are required to attend classes during Dead Week — sometimes leaving very little study time for Monday finals — teachers should be prohibited from requiring anything except attendance and make-up work.

We understand that many teachers need the extra class time to cover all the material the course requires and don't believe it's necessary to cancel class during Dead Week. However, allowing teachers to give assignments during a week when students already have enough to handle is a practice that needs to be abandoned.

The current Dead Week policies are ineffective and only serve as a way for UK to deflect accusations of not standing up for its students. It's time for UK to make Dead Week effective and true to its name by strengthening the policies that govern the end of the semester.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter from the president: Work hard during finals, relax with Crunch Brunch

It has taken forever to write this first sentence.

I have been staring at this page for hours, not knowing how to start this end-of-semester conversation about getting prepared for final exams.

Then it struck me. I remember this feeling — we all remember this feeling. We all remember sitting there, trying to write that first sentence to the last paper of the semester: trying to conjure up the way to catch your professor's eye and make a lasting impression in the grade book.

That's what is so special about your experience at UK. The lessons you are learning today will stick with you for a lifetime. Developing new study techniques, fighting through writer's block and pulling together a presentation at a moment's notice will lay the groundwork for a successful career.

The skills you are developing over the next couple of weeks — and throughout your educational career — will pay dividends down the road.

It will help you when your boss asks you to put together a PowerPoint

presentation — for tomorrow. Or when you are called upon to make a sales pitch at an international convention. Or when the director of your play asks you to fill in for a scene for which you have not memorized the lines.

Whether this is your first round of finals or the last before you earn that degree, take this challenge seriously. Go out and attack your finals, and finish the year on a positive note.

We also want you to have some fun during this process. That is why we have designed the Finals Midnight Crunch Brunch, which will be held in Memorial Coliseum on Monday from 9 p.m. to midnight. Break away from your computer or the library to come and have a meal with us. It is a great opportunity to meet college deans and other administrators, as well as to relieve stress during this hectic time of year. Best of luck on your finals, and I hope you enjoy your holiday break. I cannot wait to see all of you back on campus in January.

Lee T. Todd Jr.
UK president

Article misrepresented sociology assignment

I'm writing in regard to yesterday's Kernel article "Students required to visit strip clubs, sex shops for class." I have actually taken Family Studies 253 with Jason Hans and completed the assignment discussed in the article, and I thought the reporter's treatment of it was somewhat unfair.

Toward the end of the article, the reporter acknowledged that most students find it a valuable learning experience, but I thought the heading and the first few paragraphs of the article, the only part many people read, gave it an unfairly bad rap.

The article listed the pre-approved destinations for the project as including strip clubs, adult stores and gay bars, but it neglected to mention that options like relevant discussion groups were also approved.

In addition, students can get permission to go to events of their choice

ing that take place on campus if they don't want to go to the listed places. I've seen some of Dr. Hans' students attend Gay-Straight Alliance meetings for their assignments.

In reality, although many students (myself included) go to strip clubs and the like for the assignment, students are by no means required to do so.

Even beyond that, if some students are really uncomfortable with or morally against the idea of visiting strip clubs but choose to go to them anyway, they can still write good papers about the role of women that they observe, since the assignment is to write about gender as you observe it. The assignment is to make observations similar to the way a sociologist would, not to buy lap dances.

Cassy Lyons
English senior

Weekly Poll Question

Do you think today's college students take HIV/AIDS seriously as a potentially fatal disease?

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Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Linsen Li. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions, as well as a phone number for confirmation.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



DON WRIGHT, Palm Beach Post

Ignore 'Golden Compass' critics, watch the movie and be the judge

As Dead Week drags to a close and as my body begins to reach the limits of its capacity for freezing weather and final papers, this weekend looks increasingly like a sweet, sunny mirage full of naps, hot drinks and sweatpants.



CARRIE BASS
Kernel columnist

power that I need to reserve for finals week. I will opt for movies as my mind-numbing vice of choice.

Fortunately, the holiday movie selection this season offers more than the cliché Christmas dramas. "Juno," "Margot at the Wedding" and "Atonement" all sound exciting enough for me to venture out into the cold in order to see them. The movie that tops my to-see list, however, is the somewhat infamous "The Golden Compass."

For those of you who have either been living in a cave for the last few weeks or have been too panicked over finals to participate in pop culture, "The Golden Compass" is the "atheist" movie that has caused fundamentalist blood pressure levels to skyrocket nationwide.

This movie is based on the first novel of the same name (and the same "atheist" designation) in the "His Dark Materials" fantasy trilogy by British author Philip Pullman.

To be fair, the term "atheist" is not exactly correct in this case, since God has to exist in order to be killed, as He is in the third and final book of the series. I think the word religious critics are looking for is "blasphemous."

Even though the creators of "The Golden Compass" have publicly sworn to put the movie of all the book's "atheist" overtones and undertones, fundamentalist leaders continue to call for righteous parents to boycott the film, fearing that children who see and enjoy the neutered movie may then want to read the books.

Children wanting to read by movies! Argh! What is the world coming to? Okay, maybe that was a little too sarcastic. On a more serious note, I find children expressing a desire to read anything that will not damage them should be supported.

As much as religious extremists might believe that exposure to ideas that oppose their views or dogma may cause irreparable harm to children, this is simply not true.

Instead of boycotting movies that are questionable "faith-wise," parents who are concerned about the moral welfare of their offspring should read

the books and see the movies with their children as well as discuss the issues that interest and concern both parties.

Additionally, I am quite sure that

Fundamentalist leaders continue to call for boycott of "The Golden Compass," fearing that children who see and enjoy the neutered movie may then want to read the books.

one can appreciate and respect a work that does not exactly coincide with one's beliefs. From personal experience, I adore C.S. Lewis' series "The Chronicles of Narnia," yet I do not identify as Christian.

Censorship is never the answer; instead, critical thinking and an open mind are the best approaches to a scary or unfamiliar topic. This holiday season, take yourself and your younger family members — and your grandma, if you like — to see whichever movie looks good. Ignore the critics, go out for cocoa after the movie and talk about the two hours for which you hollowed out your wallet.

Carrie Bass is an art history senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Downplay the 'Christmas controversy,' recognize all holiday traditions instead

It's the most wonderful time of the year, again.

Media outlets begin to flood our ears with that unavoidable holiday tone, and decorations appear before our eyes at an ever-faster pace.

The holiday season's greetings seem to hit us earlier every year, as does all of the controversy that comes with it.

With so many holidays approaching, I can't help but feel overwhelmed by the yearly Christmas debate.

With our Western society being predominantly of Christian faith, Christmas is without a doubt recognized more than other December holidays.

In fact, Christmas Day is the only federal holiday this month.

This is part of the "tradition" The political ideology known as the separation of church and state even makes an exception for Dec. 25, during which most businesses will close and schools are dismissed.

However, with changing times and growth of diversity, there are many beliefs to be taken into consideration and to be respected and observed in an equal and unbiased manner.

This everlasting controversy is just that — everlasting.

Christians may argue that Christmas is not recognized enough and feel that their beliefs and religious values are disappearing when greeting cards transform from "Merry Christmas" to "Happy Holidays."

On the other hand, those who practice other holiday festivities, or none at all, can become equally offended that the Christmas spirit is displayed a bit too heavily by the government, businesses and advertising campaigns.

The idea that Christians have about Christmas is a representation of their belief in Christ, which is respectable. However, I can see how forcing Christmas in our society can become problematic for those who do not participate in this religious practice.

Hanukkah begins at sundown on Dec. 4, the Muslim holiday Eid ul-Adha is on Dec. 20, and Kwanzaa is celebrated from Dec. 26 until New Year's Day. We rarely witness commercials on television about such events or see school systems closing for them, but they do exist and are of equal importance as Christmas.

One must recognize — though not necessarily practice, enforce or promote — less popular holidays. This is where the issue of controversy and thoughts of "dying tradition" are brought to attention.

From a secular point of view, the government has no right to advocate religion, but it does seem to happen anyway.

The only solution I can see for

the "Christmas controversy" is to promote representation and respect for the many diverse beliefs that exist. Certainly this would not take

From a secular point of view, the government has no right to advocate religion, but it does seem to happen anyway.

away the Christmas tradition, but it would keep other traditions alive as well.

The best take on the situation may lie in that Christmas is also part of our collective culture.

Some individuals may not even be of strong faith, yet they still decorate Christmas trees, speak of Santa Claus to children and buy presents for their loved ones. None of the aforementioned "Christmas" characteristics show a direct belief for Christ but rather are forms of culture.

Will the holiday controversy ever end? Probably not. But instead of focusing on whether Christmas is receiving too much attention year after year, it would be ideal to keep all the various traditions alive. In the present day, the recognition of every tradition is not only a matter of respect — it is necessary.

Kristen Roebker is an anthropology junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

framebyframe | This week's box office hits and misses CGI film puts a new spin on Hollywood animation

By Ricky Simpson
rsimpson@kykernel.com

Beowulf

Starring Ray Winstone, Robin Wright Penn, Anthony Hopkins, Angelina Jolie and Crispin Glover

They are calling it the future of filmmaking. It allows unlimited imagination without delecting the actor. Everybody wins, especially the audience.

"Beowulf" is based on the ancient, epic poem of the same name. Well, loosely based. This is not so much the "Beowulf" you read in high school.

Here Beowulf (Winstone) comes from afar in attempt to defeat the devilish Grendel (Glover) who terrorizes the small village ruled by Hrothgar (Hopkins). As time passes we find that Beowulf has more than just Grendel to worry about as Grendel's mother (Jolie) turns out to be even more seductively sinister.

This is an animated film like no other. There is strong violence with severed limbs and cracked skulls, and also an incredible amount of animated nudity (including a CGI Jolie). But for those in need of a holiday action flick, this one is full of it. From beginning to end, this film is wildly entertaining and filled with action.

With so much adult content, this is far from a children's cartoon. There is a dark overtone throughout and a number of frightening images none more than Grendel himself, with a scaly face and crooked jaw that adds to his monster look. The risk of marketing an adult cartoon has not paid off just yet as the film is still falling short of its \$70 million budget, but it soon will eclipse that mark and



PARAMOUNT PICTURES | MCT

His desire for the beautiful Queen Wealhthow, left, surfaces in one of Beowulf's dreams in "Beowulf."

is sure to make a lofty sum in DVD sales.

This film runs 113 minutes and is rated PG-13 despite a large amount of violence, nudity, disturbing images and adult content. With an adult angle to this film and tons of action till the curtain drops, this is an interesting film and one of the most entertaining of the year.

Grade: B
Playing at Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal Hamburg Pavilion, Movies 10 Codell Drive.

Opening Today

The Golden Compass

Starring Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Dakota Blue Richards

Whether you want to hear it or not, this really is a movie based on a book that undermines Christianity and counters

the novels of C.S. Lewis. I have a feeling this high budget flick may bite the big one on opening weekend.

Atonement

Starring Keira Knightley, James McAvoy

This super-dramatic love story, based on the Ian McEwan novel of the same name, is highly anticipated and has as much Oscar buzz as any movie so far this season. This film will probably be the one to check out this weekend.

Grace Is Gone

Starring John Cusack

This tearjerker, about a man who learns of his wife's death in Iraq and takes his two daughters on a road trip to help with the pain, is one of two dramatic

roles this season for Cusack that is worth a watch.

Upcoming DVDs

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint

If you ask me, this is the weakest of the "Potter" films. It is dark and more directed at adults, and I think loses a lot from that.

Lost — The Complete Third Season

Starring Matthew Fox, Evangeline Lilly, Josh Holloway

Finally, all of you who wait for the DVD to catch up, you can finally go on that 48-hour Lost binge just in time for the next season.

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