

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

## Group: UK program has 'non-diverse perspective'

By Allie Garza  
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Six UK faculty members were singled out on a pamphlet that was distributed to legislative officials last week during the special session on pension reform in Frankfort.

The Family Foundation, a conservative family-oriented group based out of Lexington, issued 130 handouts containing the names, pictures, biographies and salaries of six UK faculty members, a majority of whom are associated with the Gender and Women's Studies program.

Kent Orstrander, the Family Foundation's

executive director, said the purpose of the handouts was to inform legislators about the expenditures of money, with emphasis on the women's studies department, which had a very non-diverse perspective.

"We're not focusing on the professors as individuals, but simply using what was on the (UK) Web site," Orstrander said. "We're raising the question, 'Is this where you want to prioritize your tax and tuition dollars?'"

UK President Lee Todd defended the program's funding in a statement last Thursday.

"Free and open academic inquiry is at the very heart of what institutions of

higher learning are supposed to do—whether it's researching cures to Parkinson's and lung cancer disease or asking questions about subjects that some may find uncomfortable in a diverse society," Todd said in the statement. "We shouldn't attempt to regulate such inquiry."

The Family Foundation called UK's funding of the gender and women's studies program "special interest political activism," and challenged the department to produce a faculty member who is supportive of the "traditional family."

According to a news release yesterday from the Family Foundation, Mar-

tin Cothran, senior policy analyst for the foundation, wants the university to produce one faculty member who is in support of Kentucky Marriage Amendment.

The Kentucky Marriage Amendment, passed in 2004, makes it unconstitutional for the Commonwealth to recognize or perform same-sex marriage or civil unions. The amendment passed with 75 percent approval of voters.

"More Kentuckians voted to pass the Marriage Amendment in 2004 than had ever voted both 'yes' and 'no' combined on any other constitutional amendment in the history of the Com-

monwealth," Cothran said, "yet the school continues to completely ignore the wishes of the people it serves."

The faculty members whose profiles were published in the handouts had varying reactions to the complaint. Ellen Riggie, associate director of the Gender and Women's Studies Program, said she did not think the handouts were personal attacks on either herself or her colleagues, but an attack on the university community at large.

"This is an attack on education in general, all professors contributing to the academic mission, and the students at UK," she said.

See Family on page 3

## Community joins VIP to prevent violence

By Sarah Rayan  
news@kykernel.com

The UK Violence Intervention and Prevention Center aimed to engage members of the community in finding new ways to prevent violence against women at the Green Dot Kentucky Summit on Violence Prevention hosted Monday.

The event, held on behalf of the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association and the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, is one of many steps the VIP Center has taken toward reducing the number of occurrences of violence against women in Kentucky. During their time at UK, women have a one in three chance of becoming a victim of violence, said Dorothy Edwards, director of the VIP Center.

The center created a program called Green Dot, which is a model of violence intervention. The green dot is a metaphor that refers to any behavior, choice, statement or attitude that is actively intolerant of this violence, Edwards said.

"A green dot is having a conversation with a colleague about the importance of local prevention effort, making a donation to a local domestic violence program, noticing a high risk situation and making the choice to get involved," Edwards said.

Nearly 150 people attended the summit, including state legislatures and small business owners, and discussed ways law enforcement officials, legislators, community organizers, educators, doctors, lawyers and small business owners can contribute to the

See VIP on page 6

## UK opens satellite office in Louisville

By Elise Reed  
news@kykernel.com

UK opened its first office in Louisville last month with the goal to aid in recruitment of students from the state's largest metropolitan area.

UK on Main, located at 714 W. Main St. in downtown Louisville, provides space for university officials in development, admissions, athletics and sports marketing to recruit new students to the university, according to a May 14 news release. It also houses alumni, admissions, corporate partnerships and development meetings and events that take place away from the university's campus.

UK wanted a presence in Louisville because of the city's large population, alumni base and current UK student population, said Tanya Jones, marketing services manager of UK on Main.

Nearly 25,000 UK alumni live in Jefferson County, as well as nearly 3,000 current students—roughly 10 percent of UK's entire student body, said UK spokesman Jay Blanton.

UK's decision to open its Louisville office came after examination of other universities opening similar offices in their states' largest urban areas. The University of Georgia, Oregon State University and the University of Arkansas have all opened metropolitan offices to aid in outreach, student recruitment

See Louisville on page 3

## TAKING THE STAGE



Middle school students perform "The Toad's Spots" for their friends and family on Saturday at the Briggs Theater. The play is based on Argentinian folk tale "Las Manchas del Sapo." PHOTOS BY ALLIE GARZA | STAFF

Decked in costumes made entirely by themselves, nine middle school students performed "The Toad's Spots" on Saturday at the Briggs Theater. The performance, put on by UK Theater Department's Middle School Summer Theatre Drama Camp, required students to produce, act and design their costumes in a week. The middle schoolers were chosen by writing an essay on their interest in participating in the drama camp. Because of a grant from the Center for Family and Community Service, the camp was free for the students chosen to participate.



Director and choreographer Jason Thompson speaks to the middle school students before the performance on Saturday. Thompson is a 2004 graduate of UK.

## SG forms committees to engage UK community

By Allie Garza  
agarza@kykernel.com

Like most of UK, Student Government is working this summer to develop programs and make changes to their operations despite cuts to their budget.

SG President Tyler Montell is working to redistribute some of the areas of funding with a budget that is \$100,000 less than the \$400,000 that the organization had to work with two years ago.

Montell and Vice President Grant Mills have made changes to how SG's yearly budget will be spent, including committing \$100,000 to be given to organizations and groups who need funding assistance from the Senate. This is \$30,000 more than was allotted last year.

"Last year it was \$70,000 and they (Appropriations and Revenue committee) ran out in February," Mills said.

SG has also allotted money to train the senators in their responsi-

bilities and purposes of the various committees. By increasing the level of training and expertise the committees have, Mills said he believes that the money they are giving away will be spent in the best ways possible.

Despite cuts in the budget, SG is creating new programs because Mills said he feels it is important to give back to students.

One of SG's goals is to create a program that engages students, faculty and staff members in university affairs, Montell said.

Montell and Mills have created 18 advisory boards specialized on topics ranging from environmental issues to Greek affairs as part of a new Campus 365 program.

"We have charged the boards with creating a strategic plan for the year," Mills said. "They're writing a

document based on research for these departments, seeing what the university is doing, what their goals are and how students can get involved." Additionally, Mills said these boards will also look at how SG can help with the different causes.

Mills said Campus 365 and the documents written up from the research will help SG to create a vision of goals for the year and hold SG accountable for these goals. The program will become a resource for students to see what UK is doing and how they can get involved, Mills said. Montell said he hopes this will help students understand how their tuition money is being used.

"While tuition is going up, we want to show students what UK is doing with (their) money," Tyler Montell, SG President, said. In addition to Campus 365,

Montell and Mills are in the process of determining what they plan to bring to UK, the goals they would like to accomplish and the changes they want to see on campus.

"During our campaign we talked about getting a blog on our Web site," Mills said. By adding a blog, Mills said SG will receive more feedback and questions from students.

By expanding their online exposure, SG plans to reach out to more students, Montell said.

"We want to make our availability to students multi-faceted," Montell said. "We're willing to learn how to (blog) and be more available."

Plans to update the Web site include adding short biographies and contact information of every SG executive officer, staff and senator.

The processes of the A & R committee, which handles all of SG's funding, will be moved online as well including making forms and applications for organization funding on the SG Web site.

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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 5 — Hide out in a comfortable place and give yourself time to think. Also allow yourself a few delicious delicacies. Taking good care of yourself brings out your creativity.  
**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)** Today is an 8 — This is an excellent day to go shopping. You'll do especially well if you can barter. You'll make several awesome deals.  
**Gemini (May 21 - June 21)** Today is a 7 — The money's coming your way, with no more effort on your part. It's good work, if you can get it. Since you seem to have already

done that, scoop up your reward.  
**Cancer (June 22 - July 22)** Today is an 8 — You have an abundance of compassion. You could benefit the lives of people in far distant lands. Don't waste your breath trying to convince a skeptic, take action on your own.  
**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)** Today is a 6 — You have a lot of things on your mind, some of them very nice. Do keep chipping away at a tough job.  
**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)** Today is an 8 — Your friends can help you achieve just about any goal. In this situation, for example, they can help you find the exact person you're seeking.  
**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)** Today is a 5 — You're naturally polite. You'll need every ounce of that skill to deal with an older person. You can do it. There is a happy ending.  
**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)** Today is a 9 — Travel looks excellent

now. Launch your world cruise or, if you're not quite ready for that yet, get serious about your planning.  
**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** Today is a 6 — You don't obsess about money, usually, preferring more lofty pursuits. This is a good time to do it, though. Might as well get the bills paid.  
**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)** Today is an 8 — Accept the invitation to sit back and let someone else take care of you. Enjoy the luxury.  
**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)** Today is a 6 — The job is going to demand all your attention for a couple of days. Don't schedule anything else.  
**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)** Today is an 8 — You're even more imaginative with positive support. Believe a person who thinks you have talent. Let the compliments in.

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## WANTED'S MAIN MAN!

James McAvoy chats with Us about kissing Angelina Jolie

### the DISH

Move over, Brad Pitt! U.K. heartthrob James McAvoy locks lips with Hollywood's most coveted vixen, Angelina Jolie, in the hot summer action flick *Wanted* (out June 27). The Scotland native, married to actress Anne-Marie Duff, 37, insists that the steamy scene was strictly professional. "I was acting, totally. I'm a married guy!" he tells Us. In the film, the actor is yanked from his corporate cubicle and forced to join a network of assassins. The 29-year-old chats with Us.

**Q:** What was it like to film that sexy kiss scene?  
**A:** It's the least intimate moment of your day. I was more intimate with my makeup artist than I was with Angelina! You're never worried that your breath stinks from the garlic pasta at lunch.

**Q:** How did you prepare for the physical role?  
**A:** I had to go to the gym, which isn't really my bag. That took a lot of time. There was fight training with the stunt team, kickboxing sessions every morning and gun training. I was never Conan the Barbarian. The stuff at the beginning, where I'm out of shape, lends itself more to me.

**Q:** What does your wife think of your new ripped physique?  
**A:** Aw, I don't know. You'll have to ask her!

**Q:** Do you prefer action flicks or dramas?  
**A:** I do like serious films, to be honest. When action films are good, they're fun, but when they're bad, it's like going to the

dentist. Mission: Impossible III was great.

#### THE BACHELORETTE'S FINAL THREE

Jesse Csincsak, 26  
 Georgia real estate agent Pappas, 26, loves pro snowboarder Csincsak's adventurous side ("He's always trying new things!") but wondered if the Colorado resident was too young to commit. "I worried he wasn't ready for me."

#### KATHY GRIFFIN SPEAKS HER MIND

As *My Life on the D-List* returns, the comic gives Us her uncensored take on Hollywood  
**ON JESSICA SIMPSON**  
 "Little Jessie is the only celeb who tells me, 'You can say whatever you want about me. I don't care. I just think you're funny!' She laughs at herself. Her dad is weird, though, and he keeps getting weirder."

#### ON KATIE HOLMES

"She just has that look in her eyes all the time: 'Help me!'"  
**ON JOHN MAYER**  
 "I don't trust a guy who only goes out with one famous woman after another. It's like Chris Isaak and Asian women. After the fourth Asian woman, you're like, 'What the f—? That's a huge red flag. But he's a cute guy, I guess.'"

#### BABY'S KID LOANING MOM

One *Baby Borrowers* mom tells Us why she let teens care for her kids  
 Determined to show teenagers that having a child means more than "getting a cute doll to have people admire," salt Lake City stay-at-home mom Natalie Nichols, 31, jumped at a chance to participate in *The Baby Borrowers* (NBC, Wednesdays, 9 p.m.). On the series, teen couples rear other people's kids around the clock for several days. Nichols and husband Chet, 36, handed over Etta,

now 17 months, and Benjamin, now 3, to New Hampshire college student Kelsey Lapman (who wants kids) and electrician beau Sean Graham (who doesn't), both 18. What transpired — Graham referred to Etta as "it," and Lapman literally made herself sick with worry — failed to impress Nichols, who tells Us, "It's not the right time for them to be parents."

#### ON BEING BANNED FROM THE VIEW

"I was making fun of Star Jones too much. Barbara Walters didn't ban me. It was that pain in the ass Bill Geddie, the executive producer. Why a white, middle-aged Republican runs a woman's show. I don't even know."

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**ACROSS**

- Hailed vehicle
- Gerald and Henry
- Former Nigerian capital
- Auto ad fig.
- Cake toppers
- Befuddled
- Spoon-bender
- Geller
- Inn offerings
- Napster download
- What a marksman takes
- Dream-sleep acronym
- Home to Halley and Huxley
- Louisiana's state bird, e.g.
- They're picked up by treaters
- Illumination unit
- Vena \_\_\_: heart vessel
- Snug and comfy
- Parts of Hollywood?
- Tyler of "Armageddon"
- 1969 Joe South hit, and hint to puzzle theme found in last words of 18- and 55-Across and 3- and 27-Down
- Eastern sash
- Trembling
- Eat
- Grain containers
- Mantric syllables
- Ward of "The Fugitive"
- Formally installs, as into the Hall of Fame
- Florida baseballers
- \_\_\_ Schwarz: NYC toy store
- Rolodex no.
- Pack away
- Really enjoying oneself
- Tina's 1960s-'70s music partner
- Pop up
- Neighbors of ulnae
- Little bite
- Muslim clerics
- Hardly Mr. Flight
- Hood's heater

**DOWN**

- Result in
- It comes with strings attached
- Evoke thoughts of
- Not so tall a tale
- Lots and lots
- Changed the decor of
- Eighth of a fluid ounce
- Nine-digit ID
- Clothing tag
- Word before number or weight
- Fed. property manager
- "The Star-Spangled Banner" contraction
- Down in the dumps
- Old brokerage firm
- Burnham Lambert
- Cruller coating
- Bottomless void
- Like some orange juice
- Phone service extra
- For the birds?
- Shade of blue
- Narcissist's concern
- Log house
- Quires and quires
- Jewish feast
- Desert that's a significant part of Mongolia
- Shutterbug
- Voting sites
- Mystical Islamic faith
- Mae: student loan group
- Walking aids
- Victorious Gettysburg general
- Mobile telephone giant
- Took three out of three, say
- Skier's lift
- Okinaawa affirmative
- Prepare for battle
- By way of
- Part of a loop
- Impertinence

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**VIP**

Continued from page 1

solution of this problem. "The summit was incredibly strong and the idea of changing our culture to non-tolerance of violence, sexual, and domestic is a breathtaking view," said Pat Gerhard, owner of Third Street Stuff and Coffee

who participated in the event. "Educating bystanders to the point of view that violence is not acceptable is the obvious path to take because the approach from the victim level is not working in reducing these abuses. It was inspiring and energizing."

Christy Burch-Epperson, assistant director of the VIP Center, said events like this really

make a difference in coming up with new ways to reduce the number of UK students who are affected by acts of violence against women.

"It's absolutely exciting that people all across the state of Kentucky are coming together for a common goal to prevent violence," Burch-Epperson said. "As part of the summit, participants discuss how business, ed-

ucation, media, government, faith organizations and many other groups can generate green dots."

63 percent of UK female students have experienced at least one incident of violence in their lifetime, according to the VIP Center Web site. 36.5 percent of female students will be victims of sexual assault, physical or stalking, while at UK.

**FAMILY**

Continued from page 1

Riggle said she has faith that students are able to evaluate the ideas presented to them, and her mission, and mission of her colleagues, is to facilitate the learning of those critical skills. And, Riggle said, she believes that their mission is to conduct research, which addresses problems facing the Commonwealth, the nation and the world.

"The Gender and Women's Studies Program and its faculty contribute critically to the study of these problems and the mission of the university," Riggle said.

Melanie Otis, an assistant professor in the College of Social Work, said the handouts are indictments targeting all faculties engaged in the scholarship that contributes to the elimination of social injustice.

"Ultimately, their efforts serve to remind us of the importance of the university's mission to graduate informed, thoughtful citizens prepared to make meaningful contributions to the well-being of a diverse society — locally, nationally, and globally," Otis said.

Lucinda Ramberg, an assistant professor in the women's studies program, said as a scholar of kinship, she shares an interest in the Family Foundation's

definition of "family." But, with less than 25 percent of U.S. households comprised of nuclear families, according to the 2000 census, Ramberg said that the form of the family has varied through culture and time.

"When I teach on the topic of family and kinship, as on any topic, I encourage my students to use their investigative and critical skills in their own reading, research and writing," Ramberg said.

"This is our mission in women's studies at UK, to introduce students to feminist studies and the politics of gender around the world ... and to build critical and investigative skills through the study of theory and social and historical life, and the practice of research and social engagement."

Orstrander said that while some have characterized the handouts as "attacks," the Family Foundation is in no way judging or pointing fingers at the individuals.

"We are not asking that someone's freedom of speech of beliefs be suspended, just questioning the apparent hypocrisy of claims of diversity used," he said. "Based on UK's Web site, you have to have a particular perspective to be employed in that department."

**LOUISVILLE**

Continued from page 1

and development efforts. The office's employees believe the center will be a resource for prospective and current students as well as alumni, Jones said.

"There is a definite emphasis on prospective students," said Jones. The office is located in a prominent area of downtown and has plans to host information sessions and presentations for high school students who are considering attending UK, Jones said.

UK President Lee Todd said UK on Main has great potential to extend UK's influence on recruitment in Louisville.

"Louisville and Jefferson

County are home to some of the state's top students, thousands of UK alumni, and many of Kentucky's largest and most influential businesses," Todd said in a news release. "We are pleased that this new office will allow us to collaborate with those influential community leaders, while bringing a little piece of UK to downtown Louisville."

Despite the focus of recruitment, current students and alumni will be able to use the office as a link to the Lexington campus as well, Jones said.

"It's a work in progress," Jones said, "but the possibilities are endless. There are really no definitions or limits to what we can do."

**Named faculty members**

The six UK faculty members profiled in the handout:

**Joanna Badagliacco** — Associate professor of sociology and director of UK's Discovery Seminar Program. The handout highlighted her examination in women's lives with respect to issues of abortion. Also highlighted is her involvement as the chair-elect of the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood.

**Jan Oaks** — Full-time lecturer of gender and women's studies and English. Highlighted is her scholarship involving cross-gender ventriloquism in early American literature and the intersection of feminist theory and pedagogy.

**Melanie Otis** — Assistant professor in the College of Social Work. Highlighted in her biography is her research in examining the individual and community-level impact of homophobia and heterosexism and her membership in the Kentucky Fairness Alliance.

**Lucinda Ramberg** — Assistant professor in Gender and Women's Studies Program and the Department of Anthropology. Highlighted are the classes she teaches, such as Introduction to Queer Studies, Queer Theory and Kinship studies.

**Ellen Riggle** — Associate professor of political science and gender and women's studies and associate director of the Gender and Women's Studies Program. Highlighted is her research in legal status issues for same-sex couples.

**Robert Tannenbaum** — Associate director of undergraduate studies. On the handout, highlighted is Tannenbaum's association with the American Civil Liberties Union and his membership of the Reproductive Freedom Project.



Badagliacco



Oaks



Otis



Ramberg



Riggle



Tannenbaum

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# OPINIONS

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

## ■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

### Presidential candidates offer students hope for higher education needs

As the Board of Trustees has approved a raise in tuition and with the state cutting finances for higher education, it's time students begin looking outside of Kentucky for financial support and start looking at the bigger picture.

As mentioned in last week's edition of the Kernel, Student Government president Tyler Montell, vice president Grant Mills and other members of SG traveled to Washington, D.C., to stress the issue of higher education to Kentucky's elected officials. It's about time someone spoke up to those in Washington, especially with the current state of UK's budget.

Higher education should be a priority for students, especially incoming freshmen who have three or four more years of tuition to pay. With the election coming this November, students should begin their research on where the candidates stand on higher education and what they will do for them.

We students are historically infamous for our apathy when it comes to civic duty, but this year, it's critical for us to care about the decisions the nation makes for president.

In addition to the issue of rising tuition, the next president will decide the federal funding for higher education and the availability and money put in Pell Grants and Perkins Loans. For students not aware, Pell Grants and Perkins Loans are government-sponsored grants and low interest rate loans available to students. Currently, President George W. Bush's 2008 Fiscal Year Plan proposes to eradicate the Perkins Loan pro-

gram and recall the entire federal portion of circulating funds held by participating institutions, including UK.

Beyond typical outlets like CNN and Fox News, students should look toward national and local newspapers for political analysis of the 2008 presidential candidates. Additionally, students can go on-line to both candidates' Web sites to find their stance on higher education.

According to his campaign Web site, presidential candidate Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) is proposing a Student Loan Continuity Plan, in which relies on the federal government and the 50 governors to anticipate problems and expand the lender-

of-last resort capabilities for each state's guarantee agency. Presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) plans to suggest the higher education tax credit be increased to \$4,000, double the existing Hope tax credit. Those who were to receive the credit would have to perform 100 hours of community service per year. Additionally, he would like to increase the maximum Pell Grant. Obama also plans on simplifying the application process for financial aid, according to Obama's official Web site.

While it seems November is far off, now is a great time to begin investigating which candidate will represent students in higher education issues. If our local and state governments aren't doing the job for us students, casting our vote for the next president will be the most important thing we can do to have a hand in determining our future in higher education.

With the election this November, we students should begin our research on where the candidates stand on higher education and our plans for the next four years.

HERE ARE THE THINGS POLITICIANS BUNGLED BEFORE THEY ESCAPED FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY: ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS LOSING THEIR HOUSES, GAS PRICES, THE TALIBAN OVERRUNNING AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, THE MILITARY'S EXHAUSTION AND DEPLETION, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT VIOLATING THE LAW, DITTO THE PHONE COMPANIES, HEALTH INSURANCE, OUR FOOD IS TAINTED AND THE HONEY BEES ARE DYING.



ORDINARILY THIS WOULD BOTHER ME, BUT I TAKE SOLACE IN THE FACT THAT THEY'RE WEARING THEIR AMERICAN FLAG LAPEL PINS.

Don Wright, Palm Beach Post

### CentrePoint gives students more reason to leave than stay

Much has been written and said about the so-called "development" planned for downtown Lexington.

While the CentrePoint tower surely is something, I would hesitate to call it "development." Usually, at least in economics, development implies a qualitative improvement over existing conditions. I can't see how CentrePoint will, in any way whatsoever, be better than what Lexington has already lost now that the block bounded by Limestone, Main, Upper, Vine streets has been approved for demolition. Instead, I propose that we begin to call this "development" a "growth." It seems much more fitting. But that's beside the point.

Because last week's Kernel had already been completed by the time of the Courthouse Area Design Review Board's meeting to discuss CentrePoint, there was no opportunity to express in a timely fashion the discontent that was felt at the meeting.

There had been plenty of talk about Wednesday's decision as a "tipping point" for our city — a time when we would choose to go in one direction or simply continue the status quo. But when Vice Major Jim Gray made this comment, I doubt he realized exactly how accurate his statement was. The 4-0 vote in favor of demolishing the buildings on Morton's Row was a tipping point for our city. It was, however, a tip in the opposite direction of what many expected. The unanimous decision does not represent the status quo for our city — it instead represents a step backwards. The status quo would mean that Lexington's young people — whether students or alumni of UK or Transylvania — still had a popular and well-regarded venue, close to where they live, in which they could see music or dance with their friends. Lexington no longer has that. We may never get it back — and if we do, it will likely be quite some time before it happens. While I could go on and on about the merits of historic preservation, downtown vitality and the sense of place that The Dame and Busters represented, there are more relevant issues to discuss. Like why nearly 300 people packing the council chamber and overflow room apparently aren't enough to show that the Lexington community doesn't want this kind of growth in our downtown. Or why UK President Lee Todd's explicit support of the CentrePoint development hasn't been questioned further? I don't actually believe that any UK students will hang out at CentrePoint? Or live there? Or work there? I don't believe I've met a single student who has said that they will intend to spend their weekend nights at the new development once it is completed. All you needed

to see that the block was thriving previously was to walk past the intersection of Main and Upper on a Friday or Saturday night. The hundreds of people crowding into The Dame and Busters every weekend were evidence of these buildings importance.

Somehow, that was overlooked. I doubt, however, that Todd, Dudley Webb or Joe Rosenberg ever saw those businesses on a weekend evening. Somehow, the majority of students, young professionals and Lexingtonians at-large have been ignored in this equation — written off as a counter-culture not worth keeping around. So as the demolition of the block began yesterday, we are forced to wonder, what reasons will young people have to stay in Lexington? Will we stick around because Lexington has the nation's largest carbon footprint? Or will we make our homes here because of a defunct entertainment district that was destroyed in favor of a 400-foot tall phallus whose plans were purchased from an Atlanta architecture firm that failed to get the structure built in their own city? Or will we invest in Lexington, just to have to deal with a city government that is more concerned with pleasing the upper echelon of the Lexington community while forsaking its younger generation? I highly doubt it.

If anything, I would guess the only reason we'll stick around this town would be to fix all of the messes that are being made by the older generations in this city.

### Carlin set the tone for many Americans, comedians

A great American hero with a dirty laundry list — kicked out of high school, arrested for drugs, drug addiction, court-martials, fired from several jobs, rarely voted — died last week. He didn't invent a method to lower gas prices or discover the cure for cancer. He wasn't a moral compass or even remotely

behaves in a way that you'd want to teach children. George Carlin was a comedian, a naughty one at that, one that may not have even been the best at his trade. Part of my affinity for his routines comes from the fact that the height of his popularity coincided with the rebellious period of my adolescence. However, I also got a kick out of the fact that the guy who named Thomas the Tank Engine cartoons got arrested for his "Seven Dirty Words." Those words, spoken over public airwaves and in public settings challenged the limits of free speech. Carlin stepped out that boundary and the future reaped the benefits. He challenged his audience, and consequently the creators of

American culture, to think as well as laugh. Cheaply used language, words that were being used by an affluent, controlling middle and upper class, was assaulted by Carlin. He constantly criticized the way words were being used by the establishment to soften the masses. Delivered in a mocking, high-pitched tone, Carlin beautifully contrasted the pastoral nature of baseball with the ruggedness of football: "the goal of baseball is to come home. Let's all go home. The goal of football is for the field general to march his troops to the end zone. If the game ends in a tie, we have 'sudden death' to resolve the outcome."

Ironically, Carlin pointed out the flowery language we use to cover our fear of death. I can clearly state in his honor that he "died" and did not "pass away." His raggings of "stuff" poignantly satirized the consumerism that we are all, well, consumed with. Maybe he does have the solution for gas prices: Simply stop collecting stuff. The most important example set by Carlin is that he emerged consistently with cultural changes. His inner existence came out as culture itself evolved. An XM interview that was replayed in homage to him recently included a seg-

ment that noted his outward image changed along with changes in society's acceptance of new ideas. His hair grew as his sense of self-expression grew, which coincided with cultural movements like the sexual revolution of the '60s and the rebellion surrounding Vietnam in the '70s.

Carlin was freed up to stand on the comedic rim of postmodern thinking even as deconstructionists were challenging the status quo. Evidence exists in his appearance and material that traces this emergence. Significantly, he never changed; it was his communication that evolved. For those of us who are students, this great American hero, comically so, stands as a role model for uniting vocation with need. Were we all to take our abilities and patiently express them in an emerging market, some of our problems would be solved. Unfortunately, the marketplace of ideas is fast shrinking under the megalithic "stuff" monster, which rolls hidden under the skin of business, consumerism, marketing, practical science and economics.

Just like Carlin waged war on the controlling nature of pithy language, it's time for new cultural critics to carve space for bold, realistic, comforting as well as challenging words to "bring home" our lust for progress.



DUKE GASTOS  
Kernel columnist

## ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Maintenance employees hit hardest with cuts

The news that UK President Lee Todd is only taking part of his bonus is comforting, especially since he's asked all staff and faculty to forgo any raises at all.

Some of the employees getting hit the hardest are those UK says they need here for emergencies: food handlers, maintenance workers, lab workers, plumbers, electricians and grounds workers.

These are the people who have the hardest times affording the benefits UK offers, yet these are the same employees that are told you have to be here rain, snow and shine. If the university closes for inclement weather, these employees are told they have to be here. And they do this out of loyalty to UK's mission, not for compensation because the budget won't allow it. But we should feel better, the person at the top is taking a reduced bonus.

The news that the cost of our insurance benefits will not go up is supposed to make us feel better. But UK already has one of the most expensive plans available to families, so this news was of no help for those who make less than \$35,000 a year. We pay \$373 a month for insurance for our families and \$408 if we want to add dental insurance.

This is what UK looks like to those who work here who make the least: a place of employment that has wonderful benefits that we can't afford, a place that will ask those who can afford it the least to give the most and to be dedicated and give back and be there for the university. These are the people who are hit hardest in these economic times and these are the people who sacrifice the most working here. These are the ones forgotten by UK first.

David Lee Lautzenheiser  
Plumber, UK Plumbing Shop

### Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for cartoonists to contribute on a regular basis.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

### Columnists Needed

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

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### Submissions

Send a letter to the editor to the Kernel opinions desk. Be sure to include your full name, class, major and phone number (for confirmation).

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



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RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Researchers at the University of Kentucky are looking for females ages 25-40 who are currently suffering from depression or who have ever suffered from depression for a research study on emotion and personality. The time commitment for the study is 1-2 hours. Participants will be financially compensated for their time. For more information, please call 405-143-7807 or 859-273-4654. An equal opportunity university.

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## UK alum ranks seventh in Olympic trials

By Wesley Yonts  
sports@kykernel.com

A former UK triple jumper represented the university's athletic tradition at the 2008 Olympic Trials last Friday.

UK alumnus Simidele Adeagbo competed and came in seventh in the women's triple jump competition, falling short of the top three contenders who will continue to Beijing in August.

Adeagbo was a four-time All-American triple jumper while she attended UK and was an Olympic Trials finalist in 2004. She has been ranked in the top 10 in the U.S. for the last four years and placed fifth in the U.S. Outdoor Championships in 2005. Because of that, she was

selected to train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif.

"Training there (was) a wonderful experience," Adeagbo said.

While at Chula Vista, Adeagbo was on a strict training regimen that included running for at least four hours every day, weight training and yoga.

"It was great being there," she said, "with all kinds of world-class athletes and services like sports nutrition and the efforts of everyone to help you get better."

"Training here has been a wonderful experience."

**SIMIDELE ADEAGBO**  
UK alumna

Adeagbo is also a product line manager for women's cross-training footwear at Nike.

"I'm responsible for creating new product concepts and bringing them to market," she said.

She has been featured in Business Week for her work with Nike.

Adeagbo graduated from UK in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in journalism, and holds a master's degree in communication. While at UK, she was a scholar athlete and honored as an Academic All-American.

## If Packers allow Favre back, team should trade Rodgers

MILWAUKEE — Just and accepting the fact Rodgers before he — yeah, right — was the guy. There was a sense of closure before the start of training camp.

Way to go, Aaron. Your first important timing route and you left Favre an opening through which he could drive his lawn tractor. Didn't we warn you about learning from the master?

Give Favre this: He's still got it.

The day after Aaron Rodgers incurred the wrath of Green Bay Packers fans everywhere, saying they should recognize him as the only quarterback in town or basically shut up, there was good, ol' Brett to declare he had the itch to play again.

Take it away on the play by play ...

Favre's rolling out, looking, looking ... he's got Public Relations wide open! Touchdown, Favre!

Four months after Favre's teary retirement, even the most sentimental No. 4 backers were beginning to do the right thing. They were letting go, moving on



**MICHAEL HUNT**  
Syndicated columnist

What a mess, what a colossal heap of green-and-gold mess.

If Favre has an itch, then the Packers' brass has got to have a rash about the size of Brown County.

You know good and well Ted Thompson and Mike McCarthy were more than ready to move on. Rodgers is Thompson's guy. McCarthy's gig is working with young quarterbacks. There was a sense of anticipation surrounding what a gifted, if inexperienced, quarterback could do with an otherwise loaded lineup.

Now, this. If the Packers wanted to do right by all concerned, they'd respectfully decline. But how can they? They helped create this monster. Favre was bigger than the most storied franchise in NFL history, a position no player should ever assume.

Look, Favre was one of the three or four greatest players I ever covered. Certainly the greatest competitor. I wanted to see him play a couple more seasons as long as he didn't embarrass himself on the field.

But once he made the decision to retire, that should've been it. No turning back. It wouldn't be fair to anyone, not to himself, not to the Packers, not to the fans who are now welcoming the possibility of his return, and certainly not to Rodgers.

Yes, Rodgers opened himself to criticism for what he said to Sports Illustrated, but you could understand where he was coming from. His behavior under such intense scrutiny was exemplary for most of the off-season. He handled the near-impossible role of Favre's successor

as well as could be expected of a hyper-competitive 24-year-old.

So if the Packers allow Favre to return, they should do Rodgers a favor and trade him. Let him go somewhere he has the chance to play without getting the runaround for the next two or three years. If Rodgers suddenly isn't the guy as Thompson and McCarthy declared him to be, it's on them to thoroughly prepare a couple of rookies in case a 39-year-old starter goes down.

A man's got a right to change his mind, but this isn't becoming Favre's legacy. Under most circumstances, I'd welcome the chance to see him play again. But this isn't one of them. It has the appearance of the Packers forcing him out, only for Favre to play the PR card in staging a palace coup. I'm not sure I buy that, but the impression is there. I believe Favre just wants to play, which is fine because as he rightly said in March, he can still get it done.

So why didn't he spare us all the inevitable drama and say that in the first place?

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