

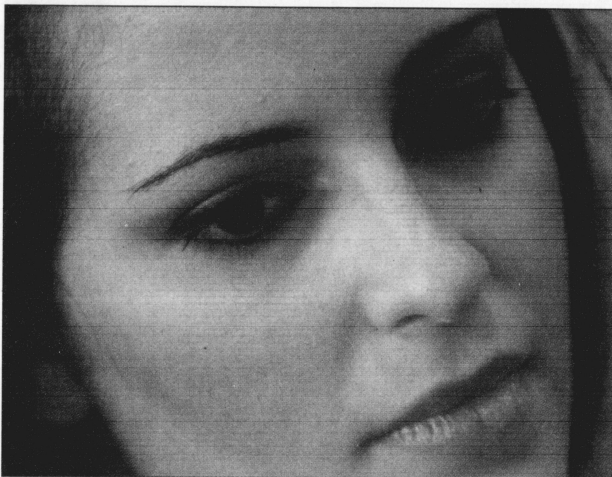
THE Kentucky Kernel

Thursday, July 27, 2006

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UK student returns from Beirut



Political science senior Sarah Weatherbee returned to Lexington from Beirut, Lebanon, on July 23 after the conflict between the Lebanese and the Israeli group Hezbollah broke out. Weatherbee, who is half-Lebanese, was taking an Arabic class as part of a study abroad program when Hezbollah bombed the Beirut airport after two of their soldiers were captured by Lebanon.

BRAD LUTTRELL
STAFF

Student weathered bomb threats, hopes to return, aid in rebuilding

By Tim Wiseman
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

As bombs fell in Beirut, Lebanon, Sarah Weatherbee watched on television as the warfare unfolded. When she and her classmates stepped outside, they could hear the planes that carried those bombs flying overhead.

Weatherbee, a UK political science senior, had been in Lebanon since June 24 as part of a study abroad program that focused on the Arabic language.

Before leaving for the trip, Weatherbee had to sign a release from the U.S. State Department as she was going to a potentially hostile place. But thoughts of any trouble were hardly more than an afterthought once she arrived.

"I wasn't expecting any of the conflict," said Weatherbee, who is half-Lebanese. "I knew there was the latent conflict there brewing between Israel and Hezbollah. I didn't really expect something of this magnitude to happen."

"Still, there is always that feeling in the back of your mind that this is Lebanon, not France."

For the first three weeks of the program, she and her classmates enjoyed all that Beirut had to offer. After three hours of classes during the day, the group traveled around the area, including a visit to neighboring Syria.

"There is so much stuff to do," said Weatherbee. "The people are so friendly — it's really easy to fall in love with."

But then two Israeli soldiers were captured by Hezbollah, and Israel responded by bombing Beirut's airport and other areas of

the city. "At that point the mood became more fearful, everyone asking, 'Where do we go now? Is it safe to stay in Beirut?'" she said.

To keep the program going, its directors moved classes to Byblos, a coastal town north of Beirut.

There, Weatherbee and her group were farther from the conflict, but they still felt it, as their instructors continued to commute back and forth from Beirut to teach.

"They were risking their lives to even be there," she said. "It was hard to concentrate. Even though you were away from it, it still surrounds you because the people near you are affected by it."

From instructors and other locals, Weatherbee heard stories of what was going on back in Beirut.

A maid in the dorm lived in south Beirut, and her house was bombed in one of the Israeli air raids.

"She was very quiet," Weatherbee said. "I was very angry, hurt and upset. What angered me the most was that the Lebanese were caught in the middle of this conflict."

"These people tried so hard to progress and rebuild after their civil war, and now they are back where they started."

And whenever she went outside in Byblos, she was reminded of the conflict.

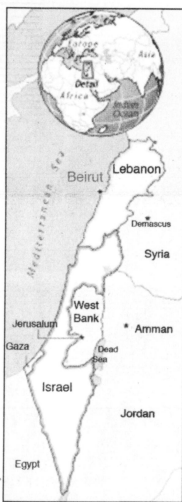
"In Byblos, we could hear the planes flying over but not the bombing," she said. "We were afraid."

One day, she and a few others went back into Beirut to get some of the souvenirs they had left behind at their dorms.

"It was so quiet," she said of the city's

See Beirut on page 2

"I didn't expect something of this magnitude to happen. Still, there is always that feeling in the back of your mind that this is Lebanon, not France."

Sarah Weatherbee
political science senior

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST
Beirut has been the target of many Hezbollah bombs, including the first attack on the airport. It is also where UK student Sarah Weatherbee was studying Arabic.

UK garners \$290.4 million in research funds

By Crystal Little
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK President Lee Todd announced yesterday that the university has brought in a record-breaking \$290,365,000 in grants and contracts for the 2006 fiscal year.

This is a 6 percent increase from last year's total, which was \$274 million.

"This year's record figure of \$290.4 million reflects the talent and skill of four outstanding faculty members who compete nationally for research dollars," Todd said in a news release. "It also reflects our growth as a research institution as UK stacks up increasingly well against other universities competing for the same funds."

"Even with federal research budgets remaining flat this year, our research faculty and staff showed their talent, successfully competing for more research dollars than ever before."

UK's federal awards from agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the departments of defense, education and agriculture went up 2.2 percent from last year, with a total of \$155.5 million. Awards from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, research contracts from business and industry and non-profit funding also rose for 2006.

"The competition for grants and contracts is exceedingly stiff, especially as government research budgets are tight," said Wendy Baldwin, UK's executive vice president for research, in a statement yesterday. "The limited pool of research funding available makes this record-breaking achievement by UK faculty and staff even more impressive."

E-mail clittle@kykernel.com

UK's awards, in millions, for the 2006 fiscal year

\$155.5

Federal awards

\$76.7

Commonwealth of Kentucky awards

\$19.5

Research contracts from business and industry

\$38.7

Funding from non-profits, including other universities

\$290.4

Total grants and contracts

Office relocates to new parking garage

STAFF REPORT

On Monday UK's Parking Structure No. 6 will open at the corner of Virginia and Press avenues, UK officials announced yesterday.

The 700-space structure will also accommodate the main offices of UK's Parking and Transportation Services, which formerly shared space with the UK Police Department on the corner of Rose Street and Euclid Avenue.

"We are eager to open our new office," said Don Thornton, director of Parking and Transportation Services, in a news release, "and hope that the new location will help resolve office space and disability access issues faced at the office's current location (at the corner of Rose and Euclid)."

In addition to the improved accessibility, the new office will feature a gate-controlled entrance for employees with E permits and a bus stop inside the structure.

Presently, the structure will be limited to employee parking. The structure will also be open to any user with a valid UK permit after 3:30 p.m. Visitor parking inside the structure will be unavailable until next year, but limited metered parking is available in the area.

"Parking and Transportation Services is excited about the opening of Parking Structure No. 6," Thornton said. "(It) will benefit those parking in a growing section of campus."

E-mail
news@kykernel.com

Parking Structure No. 6

Until Aug. 21, Parking Structure No. 6 at the corner of Virginia and Press avenues will have short-stayed summer hours 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 6 a.m. to 6 a.m. Friday.

Regular hours of operation for the structure will be 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

All vehicles must be removed from the structure prior to closing. Overnight parking without prior approval from UK Parking and Transportation Services is prohibited, and any vehicle disregarding this policy may be subject to a citation and/or impoundment at the owner's expense.

SOURCE: WWW.UKY.EDU

Lebanese: Conflict is a way of life

By Megan K. Stack
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TIBNIN, Lebanon — Families hand down tales of mayhem like heirlooms and mark their personal milestones against the dates of wars. Their landscape is layered with reminders of bygone battles: captured Israeli artillery, bombed-out buildings left to crumble slowly into the dirt; posters, everywhere, that bear the faces of the fallen "martyrs."

The years of war have left their shadow on southern Lebanon. For years, Arab guerrillas have used these hills as a base for attacks against Israel. And for years, Israel has invaded and occupied, launched shells and missiles.

Now, fighting once again covers the rolling landscape, and another generation is hardening against the Jewish state. The fervor to fight Israel finds fresh fuel as civilians die, food runs out and villages drain of people.

"In every invasion, there's a massacre in my family," said Souhba Abdellah. She lost 24 family members, most of them children, when the flatbed truck in which they were riding was bombed by Israeli warplanes. Her relatives died trying to flee the village of Marwabeen, where they had eked out a living growing tobacco and wheat.

"We've tasted it all," Abdellah said. Abdellah is a Sunni Muslim. And yet, on

Friday, when she stood in a sun-scoured vacant lot to see her loved ones buried in a mass grave, she spoke glowingly of Hezbollah, a Shiite Muslim organization.

"Hezbollah," she said, "will be victorious, with God's help."

This is the heartland of Hezbollah, the group founded as a band of Shiite Muslim guerrillas after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. From these valleys and olive groves, Hezbollah fighters harassed and killed Israeli soldiers until the army withdrew in 2000.

Since then, rockets launched from these villages have struck Israeli towns across the border, about 10 miles from here.

Israeli officials accuse those who live here of supporting Hezbollah, and count them as among their most implacable foes.

Few here would deny it. In an impoverished region that has long languished as a backwater, the power of Hezbollah — short-handed here as "the resistance" — is the main point of pride. Many southerners think of themselves as the only Arabs outside the Palestinian territories who have stood up to Israel, over and over again.

Residents of southern Lebanon harbor a profound gratitude to Hezbollah's political party and welfare programs for giving them a political identity and a voice, for turning the populous, predominantly Shiite borderlands

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NEWS BRIEFS

Interim executive vice president for research named

UK President Lee Todd announced last week that Wendy Baldwin, the university's executive vice president for research, is leaving the campus for a position at The Population Council. Baldwin, whose title at The Population Council is program director of poverty, gender and youth, will begin her work there Oct. 1.

"I have spent much of my career working on the challenges of adolescents and the council's work is where my heart is," Baldwin said.

The Population Council is an international, nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that conducts biomedical, social science, and public health research. It has 17 offices in Africa, Asia and the Americas. It operates in more than 70 countries.

Associate Vice President for Research Chuck Stabf has been named interim head of the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research starting Oct. 1.

UK to potentially receive \$2.5 million, UofL to get \$19.25 million

The U. S. Senate Appropriations Committee approved the Fiscal Year 2007 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill on July 20, which included \$25 million in funding for

several Kentucky universities. The bill now must be approved by the full Senate.

Louisville received the lion's share of the funding, at \$19.25 million, which includes \$15.7 million for the construction of a new biomedical research building. The new building will provide lab space and a full-service animal facility in support of cancer research.

If the bill is approved by the full Senate, UK will receive \$2.5 million; of that, \$1.5 million will go to the High Bandwidth Network Connection project, allowing UK to upgrade its connection to the National High Speed Grid and maintain full membership to the grid, aiding in Internet access for the entire campus. The other million will go to the Kentucky Oral Health Initiative, which was created to improve oral health for disadvantaged Kentuckians.

The Senate Appropriations Committee also approved \$9 million for Kentucky in the Fiscal Year 2007 Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, which also must be approved by the full Senate. All of the money will go to projects in the western part of the state, including \$4.6 million to improve the Paducah riverfront; local officials are envisioning a marina, a public docking area, and green space.

COMPILED FROM STAFF, WIRE REPORTS

Beirut

Continued from page 1

streets. "So quiet."

There as they heard some distant bomb blasts, she spoke with a restaurant owner who said he had to stay in Beirut despite his family's pleas to get away.

"These people are survivors," Weatherbee said. "They take it in stride."

Some in her group wanted to stay and get out through Syria, but when the evacuation started, Weatherbee knew she had to go.

The evacuation was hectic, as Weatherbee said she was given just a few minutes to pack before heading to Beirut's port. There they waited to board a Norwegian freighter with more than 1,000 others. "An uncomfortable ride for sure," it took about seven hours for the freighter to reach Cyprus where Weatherbee went to the American Embassy.

From there, she made her way to London, England, to spend a few days while finding a flight back to the United States.

She arrived back in Lexington earlier this week, but she still thinks about what's going on in Lebanon.

"I feel very much attached to it," she said. "A lot of us feel in love with that place. It's so sad."

"I hope there's an end."

E-mail: tuiseman@kykernel.com

Conflict

Continued from page 1

into region that couldn't be shunted aside. For that, they have paid a price.

In the two weeks since Hezbollah fighters slipped into Israel, captured two Israeli soldiers and killed eight others, southern Lebanon has paid a high price.

Israel has bombed homes and cars; accused residents of harboring terrorists; and ordered them to leave their villages and move north of the Litani River, 20 miles from the Israeli border. Hundreds of civilians have been killed by Israeli bombs.

All the tactics have been tried before. "The whole thing is a lost cause for Israeli aims," said Timur Goksel, a longtime United Nations spokesman who spent more than 25 years in southern Lebanon. "They can't close down an ideology. They are trying to intimidate the whole public to achieve goals that you can't achieve by military means."

For the people of southern Lebanon, there is almost nothing new about the fighting that has engulfed their villages these past weeks.

"We have seen it before," they say, and rattle off the years of the Israeli attacks.

They mention 1978, when Palestinian fighters based here attacked a bus north of Tel Aviv, Israel, and killed 35 Israelis, provoking an Israeli invasion. They speak of 1982, when Israel invaded again, seeking to drive out the Palestine Liberation Organization. And they invoke 1983 bombing assault and the "Grapes of Wrath" campaign of 1996, when Israel tried to purge the south of Hezbollah.

Many southerners regard the current fighting as another scene in a continuing tragedy. What's more, they believe it's their lot.

"Israel has shown us southerners no mercy, and this predated Hezbollah and the Palestinians. We have always been in this situation," said Nabil Maleh, a 65-year-old maker of candy and cakes from the coastal city of Tyre. "This is what we have. This is what we are."

Combative Hussein returns to court after three-week hunger strike

By Andy Mosher
THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Saddam Hussein returned to court yesterday for the first time in more than a month, not looking appreciably thinner or sounding any less combative after going nearly three weeks without solid food.

The former Iraqi president strode into the courtroom shortly after 11 a.m. for what would be a 4 1/2-hour session devoted to the closing argument in his defense against charges that he ordered the killings of more than 140 Iraqis from the town of Dujiail after an attempt on his life there in 1982.

With his legal team boycotting the proceedings, Saddam mostly sat and listened as court-appointed lawyers read a lengthy statement his own attorneys had prepared. As he has throughout the trial, which opened in October but was extended by numerous recesses and postponements, Saddam verbally sparred with the judge over questions of law, politics and conduct.

At the outset of yesterday's session, Saddam protested that he, too, had intended to boycott but had been forcibly brought to court from a hospital where he had been fed through a tube since the weekend.

"I would like to remove myself from this courtroom," barked Saddam, who maintained that the court was not legitimate and that he did not have proper legal representation. "I wrote you a petition clarifying that I don't want to come to court, but they brought me against my will. ... I have been on a hunger strike since July 8."

Several times, he threatened the substitute attorneys, whose names were not released and whose voices were electronically altered on the courtroom sound system and television broadcast feed. "You are my enemy," he told one of them. He pointed to another and exclaimed, "Damn you!"

At one point, Saddam informed Judge Raouf Abdel-Rahman that when he decides on a method of execution, "remember that Saddam Hussein is a military commander and should be shot by bullets, not hanged like a regular criminal." Though Saddam made himself head of the Iraqi military after becoming president in 1979, he never served in the armed forces and in fact failed the Baghdad Military Academy's entrance exam in the 1950s.

Saddam could be sentenced to death if found guilty of the Dujiail killings, but Abdel-Rahman protested that it was too early in the proceedings to discuss possible punishments.

When Saddam pressed the point, Abdel-Rahman said: "I consider this an insult. ... From now on, if anyone, whoever it is, wants to impose their opinion on me, I will not stay in this position."

For the bulk of the session, however, Saddam sat and listened as his appointed lawyers read a lengthy final argument essentially maintaining that none of the evidence presented at trial directly tied him to the killings of Dujiail residents.

In an apparent bid to shift blame to any of his seven co-defendants, the argument also asserted that Saddam's presidential powers were far from absolute and that his knowledge of the day-to-day workings of other branches of government was limited.

Michael Newton, a Vanderbilt University law professor who was observing the trial and had participated in framing laws that created the special tribunal holding it, called the defense argument "very substantive."

"They are well-prepared," Newton said of Saddam's attorneys. "It's a solid defense argument."

After Saddam declined to make a closing statement of his own, Abdel-Rahman adjourned the session and Saddam had his first solid meal in weeks: beef, rice, bread, some fruit and a Coke, Newton said.

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Rome conference failed to attain cease-fire between Israel, Hezbollah

By Robin Wright
THE WASHINGTON POST

ROME — International talks on Lebanon here failed yesterday to agree on an immediate cease-fire in the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah but called for a new multinational force in south Lebanon and opened the way for Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to return to the Middle East soon for further discussions, U.S. and U.N. officials said.

The Rome conference did not bridge the gap between a tough U.S. position, opposing a cease-fire except as part of a broader arrangement that can endure for years, and European and Arab calls for an immediate halt to the fighting. The meeting went 90 minutes longer than expected, largely because of stiff debate over the cease-fire issue, U.S. diplomats said.

"We are all agreed that we want most urgently to end the violence on a basis that this time will be sustainable, because unfortunately this is a region that has had too many broken cease-fires, too many spasms of violence, followed then by other spasms of violence," Rice said at a joint press conference with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora and the conference host, Italian Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema.

Despite an impassioned appeal for an immediate end to hostilities by Siniora, who said Israeli airstrikes had brought his country "to its knees," the United

States pushed through language urging countries to "work immediately to reach with utmost urgency a cease-fire that put an end to the current violence and hostilities." Most of the 18 parties called instead for "urgent work on an immediate cease-fire." As an alternative, Annan suggested a temporary "pause" in hostilities to let in humanitarian assistance and deploy an international force to distribute relief and eventually help strengthen the Lebanese government, an idea that other delegates said was blocked by intense U.S. pressure.

The U.S.-backed formulation will allow fighting to continue until a wide-ranging agreement can be worked out, diplomats here said.

Rice told reporters traveling with her that talks will begin later this week or early next week among countries interested in contributing troops to the proposed multinational force. Plans are also underway for one or two new U.N. Security Council resolutions, which U.S. officials said would be drafted as early as next week.

The conference did not define the terms or timing of the proposed force, although Rice said that it would not be expected to deploy under hostile fire. The conference declaration said the force should receive "a U.N. mandate to support" Lebanon's army in securing the country's south.

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said Wednesday he

would commit troops to a military force for Lebanon if it had a U.N. mandate, and Turkey, NATO's only Muslim member, said Tuesday that it might join such a force as well.

The conference's declaration urged Israel "to exercise its utmost restraint" and pledged "to provide immediate humanitarian relief to the people of Lebanon."

A large international force — with most estimates beginning around 10,000 troops — will take significant time to organize, the United Nations' Rose-Larsen said.

The strategy Rice is trying to orchestrate to stop Hezbollah's attacks on Israel centers on strengthening the Lebanese government with international political and military support that might enable it to deal with Hezbollah, U.S. officials said.

While earlier governments in Beirut have been unwilling and unable to disarm Hezbollah ever since the radical Shiite militia's founding in 1982, diplomats traveling with Rice said that Hezbollah will eventually recognize that it is in its self-interest to disarm and become just a Lebanese political party.

"This is not a Hezbollah-centered approach. It is based on a government-of-Lebanon approach," State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said. "We think Hezbollah will see that it's in its interests to do it. We want to create a reality that makes maintaining an independent armed force in Lebanon unsustainable."

Execution set in Virginia for pagan devotee

By Timothy Dwyer
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — It is often said that inmates find God when they get to prison. That is only partly true for Michael Lenz. Once behind bars, he became a devoted pagan, worshipping multiple gods from Norse mythology — some with familiar names such as the mighty Thor and his father, Odin.

Lenz, a drifter from Prince William County, Va., serving 29 years and 30 days in prison for burglary and firearm possession, converted to Asatru, an ancient heathen religion, and helped found a prison chapter called Ironwood Kindred.

The religion became the focal point of his life — "the only thing that mattered to him," according to legal documents. And it was this devotion to his gods that, according to his testimony, prompted

him to plan a murder. " ... I pulled a knife out of my pocket and said, 'Are you trying to take it to the next step?'"

And he said, "Yes, I am." And so I stabbed him."

Thursday night, Lenz, who still practices Asatru from his cell on Virginia's death row, is scheduled to be put to death by lethal injection for killing in the name of his gods. He has applied for a stay of execution by the U.S. Supreme Court and for clemency from Democratic Gov. Timothy Kaine.

Lenz is one of a few inmates in Virginia prisons who practice Asatru. But in prisons across the United States, the number of converts has increased in recent years, according to experts, some of whom say prisoners find encouragement for violence in the gods they worship.

"This is a warrior thing," said Heidi Beirich, deputy director of the Intelligence Project for the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups and extremist organizations. "What they take out of it is violence, physical dominance and racial purity. To them, Thor represents the ultimate white male."

Beirich said many of the inmates who have converted to Asatru or Odinism are white supremacists. "It is anti-Christian, and these particular pagan religions glorify deities created by the white race," she said. "They respect values they are drawn to — like being really strong, being able to fight — Thor with his hammer. And that's what they worship."

Beirich said there are racist and non-racist versions of the religion in prisons and among the general population.

Stephen McNallen, director of the Asatru Folk Assembly, a leading Asatru group in the United States, has been fielding calls from the media as Lenz's execution approaches.

"There is nothing in Asatru that would justify what he did," McNallen said of the killing by Lenz and Jeffrey Remington, Lenz's best friend, who also was an Asatru devotee.

There is just not justification for what he did. Like any other group, we expect the holy powers to be honored. Clearly, when someone does something that is just plain wrong, just plain evil, obviously it hurts us. It hurts us in the same way that the lunatic-fringe Muslims hurt Islam. It is an embarrassment."

Once a Catholic altar boy, McNallen, 57, said he became a devotee of Asatru about 35 years ago while contemplating a career in the U.S. Army. "This warrior thing loomed in my own life," he said. He prefers not to use heathen or pagan as adjectives because, he said, both terms carry too much baggage.

"The best way to describe Asatru is to compare it with other native religions: Native American or other native or indigenous religions in any location on the globe," McNallen said in a telephone interview from his California home. "We are a group of people attempting to follow the way of our ancestors and look toward our ancestors as a source of spiritual comfort, nourishment and connection."

He estimated that 10,000 to 20,000 people in the United States share his religious beliefs and only a small percentage of devotees — less than 1 percent — are white supremacists. He guessed that a good number of those people are prison inmates.

What drew Lenz, 42, to Asatru while in prison is unclear. He had a "troubled childhood and adolescence," according to his clemency application. He was living in a tent in Prince William and broke into three homes and a restaurant to steal food. In 1998, he was convicted of burglary and possession of a firearm and sent to Augusta Correctional Center.

In court documents, he is described as a rule-abiding inmate with no violent episodes before or after the killing of Brent Parker.

Parker was a convicted murderer serving a 50-year sentence for killing a man in Winchester in 1985 by beating him for an hour. Parker laughed while beating the man, who did not fight back, taking breaks to smoke, according to court documents.

Lenz testified that Parker had threatened Remington and that his efforts to organize his Asatru group in prison were being "thwarted" by Parker.

On the evening of Jan. 16, 2000, Lenz, Parker, Remington and three other inmates attended a meeting of the Ironwood Kindred. A guard was stationed outside the door. Lenz read some poetry and afterward called Parker to the altar.

"I called (Parker) up to the altar and I asked him — and I said to him 'It has been a long, hard path between us,'" Lenz testified at his trial. "And Parker said, 'Yes, it is.' And I pulled a knife out of my pocket and I said, 'Are you trying to take it to the next step?' And he said, 'Yes, I am.' And so I stabbed him."

Remington also pulled a knife and began stabbing Parker.

The three other inmates ran out of the room and notified the guard. The corrections officer called for backup and yelled at the two men to drop their knives — an order they ignored. Parker was stabbed 62 times, according to the medical examiner's report, and received multiple stab wounds to the lungs and liver, each of which would have been fatal by themselves.

Remington also was sentenced to death for Parker's slaying, but he killed himself on death row in 2004.

Lenz's attorney, Jennifer Givens, said that Lenz's religion surely played a role in the killing but that the jury should have been told about Parker's history of violence. Her appeal to the Supreme Court is also based on the fact that a juror was reading a Bible during deliberations.

A winning strategy for Dems ... if only they'd use it

By Steven Pearlstein
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — To understand why Democrats can't win elections, all you had to do was attend this week's symposium at the Brookings Institution put on by the Hamilton Project, an effort by the (Bill) Clinton economic brain-trust to generate new ideas and a Democratic election agenda.

The main topic was globalization, which had a certain urgency about it the day after the latest round of global trade talks collapsed.

Because this was the free-trade wing of the Democratic Party, the event featured all the usual arguments about how globalization has helped the U.S. economy, boosting growth and productivity through scale economies, specialization and increased innovation.

And because these were Democrats, there were the requisite acknowledgements that, while trade is an overall plus for the economy, it has had some unpleasant side effects: insecurity about job losses, downward pressure on wages, widening inequality, and an unsustainable trade deficit.

There was even a general consensus on what needs to be done to ameliorate those effects. The prescriptions included some old ideas about balancing the federal budget, investing more in education and repealing the Bush tax cuts, and some newer ones such as universal access to health insurance, portable pensions and wage insurance. Protect people, not jobs, was the headline message in the Hamilton Project briefing paper

that rejected the protectionist policies of the union left as well as the "you're-on-your-own" economics of the laissez-faire right.

Policy-wise, this is exactly where the Democratic Party as a whole needs to be in terms of trade and globalization. But the problem is that, when you scratch the surface, the free-trade members of the Democratic establishment turn out to be more committed to Part A of the formula, more globalization, than they are to Part B, making sure the benefits from globalization are widely shared. For them, it's really not a package deal.

And if push comes to shove, which it always does in trade politics, they'd welcome more globalization even without the compensatory social policies.

How do I know this? Because they said so.

At the conference's closing session, I asked former Treasury secretaries Robert Rubin and Larry Summers and former deputy Treasury secretary Roger Altman if any of them would be willing to support the idea of a "time out" on new free-trade initiatives until there was some tangible progress toward greater economic security for U.S. workers. To a man, they recoiled at the idea.

They explained to me that globalization is such a widespread and powerful phenomenon that it would hardly be affected by trade agreements.

Then, without missing a beat, they turned around and argued how crucial those agreements are, running through the usual list of horrors that would befall the

country if the United States were to put its free-trade agenda on hold.

That the United States would give up its role as the leading force for internationalism.

That such a move would send a terrible signal from the world's superpower about its isolationist instincts.

And, oh yes, my personal favorite — that if we stopped negotiating trade treaties, other countries would rush around and sign bilateral agreements without us.


All of these arguments, of course, are beside the point. This is about the politics of trade, not the policies. And it's a perfect example of how the Democrats have lost the instinct for the political jugular and the ability to use policy disputes to political advantage.

The idea here isn't to kill free trade. It's to take it hostage.

That's a big problem for the business community, particularly big corporations such as Lucent, AIG and General Electric. Democrats now have a perfect opportunity to deliver what the business community wants — and to demand in exchange programs designed to provide workers more economic security.


But such negotiations will never succeed if influential Democrats give away the store in advance by signaling they support all trade liberalization, unconditionally.

No guarantees of health care, pensions, expanded unemployment insurance — no more trade deals. It's a simple message even chief executives can understand. Voters, too.



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IN THEATERS

JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

When three high-school chicks (Ashanti, Arielle Kebbel and Sophie Bush) discover they're all dating the same guy, John Tucker (Jesse Metcalfe), they set him up to fail with the cute new girl in town (Sophie Bush). What they don't count on is the two falling ... oh, sorry, I dozed off for a second. Man, oh man. This movie's going to suck for everyone that isn't a 15-year-old 'N Sync fan. By the way, Lance Bass recently came out of the closet and is reportedly dating a reality TV host. Just thought I'd throw that out there. Anyway, Jesse Metcalfe is a really good-looking guy. It's great that he has a movie where he plays a really good-looking guy. He won't even have to act, which is good, because ... well, you get where I was going. **Rated PG-13** for sexual content and language. Which means Ashanti will show much less skin than she normally does in a Ja Rule music video, and two people may or may not have their lips touch. **At Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal, and Woodhill.**

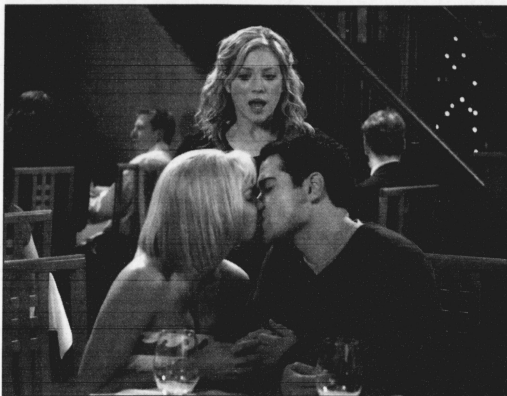


PHOTO FURNISHED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX
Jesse Metcalfe (right) of 'Desperate Housewives' fame, stars as a total player whose conquests unite to destroy his womanizing ways in 'John Tucker Must Die.'

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

Finally! Something that doesn't seem to be film studio fluff! "Little Miss Sunshine" is about a dysfunctional family who treks from Albuquerque, N.M., to California in order for the youngest daughter (newcomer Abigail Breslin) to enter the Little Miss Sunshine pageant. Of course, along the way the family learns to respect and support one another despite their own issues. While this may sound cheesy, the talented cast help make it an above average film. Watch it for a lot of laughs (the family arguments, the pageant itself) and a good story. Includes Greg Kinnear ("As Good As It Gets," "Stuck on You"), Toni Collette ("The Sixth Sense," "About a Boy"), Steve Carell ("40-Year Old Virgin," "Anchorman"), Paul Dano ("The Sopranos"), and Alan Arkin ("America's Sweethearts," "Jakob the Liar"). **Rated R** for language, some sex and drug content. **Theaters TBA.**

MIAMI VICE

Does anyone know any Chuck Norris jokes? As if I even need to ask. While Chuck Norris is not in this film, "Miami Vice" is based on a TV series shown in the same era as Norris' TV show. Based on the '80s TV show, this update focuses on detectives Sonny Crockett (Colin Farrell) and Ricardo Tubbs (Jamie Foxx) and a case involving

drugs and murder in South Florida. While Farrell and Foxx are quality actors, I think it's still going to be the same exact plot I have seen in every action film since the beginning of time. I mean, the TV show wasn't even that great (not that anyone has seen it, but it's always lampooned.) Just in case you didn't remember, it's up there with Chuck Norris. **Rated R** for strong violence, language and some sexual content. **At AmStar, Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal and Woodhill.**

TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY

Does anyone else hear teenage boys celebrating? That's right! A new Will Ferrell film! Ferrell ("Anchorman," "Old School," "The Hot Chick") known best for his comedy sketches in "Saturday Night Live," has made another film poking fun at egotistical males, this time NASCAR drivers. "Talladega Nights" chronicles Ricky Bobby's (Ferrell) competition with a new rival, Frenchman Jean Girard (Sasha Baron Cohen). To combat his new opponent, Ricky Bobby and his best friend Cal (John C. Reilly) form Thunder and Lightning to stop the Frenchman from winning. If you're a fan of Ferrell's humor, then definitely see this movie. If you like plot in a movie, then I don't suggest it. But you probably already knew that. **Rated PG-13** for crude and sexual humor, language, drug references and brief comic violence. **Opens Aug. 4, at Cinemark Fayette Mall.**

Regal and Woodhill.

ON SHELVES A FISH CALLED WANDA

This is one of the best comedies of all time. Period. Therefore, you must see it! New to DVD this week, "A Fish Called Wanda" is a 1988 film starring John Cleese, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Kevin Kline. The story involves four people and their quest to steal diamonds and how the four turn on each other so each can have a share in the pot.

V FOR VENDETTA

Natalie Portman ("Garden State," "Closer") shaved her head for this movie. While cameras were rolling. That's dedication. The film is based on Alan Moore's controversial graphic novel of the same name, and it was a bit of a polarizing political box-office draw. Hugo Weaving ("The Matrix" trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy) stars as V, a masked freedom-fighter — or terrorist, depending on your point of view — determined to liberate Britain from lethargy and complacency. And Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" plays a supporting role. See it before you judge it. No, really.

— Compiled by Features Editor
Ellen Sawyer
E-mail: features@kykernel.com

ONTAP | For the week of JULY 27 – Aug. 2

TONIGHT

Hundred Dollar Handshake w/ Genuine Junk Band
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Xavier Rudd
9 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$14 to \$16.
The Sexual Disaster Quartet
11 p.m. Lynagh's. Free.

TOMORROW
Tres Chicas w/ The Deehawks
7 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$7.

Danielson w/ Man Man, Johnnythreethree, Beauty Pill and Jonny Lives
7 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$7.

SATURDAY
Mission of Burma w/ Ampline, Rodeo Queen, Dead Machines and 24 Hour Flu
6 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$12.

Get Down Watson
11 p.m. The Fishtank. Ticket prices TBA.

SUNDAY
Camera Obscura w/ Georgie James and Oh No! Oh My!
7 p.m. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$8.

MONDAY
Brian Auger's Oblivion Express w/ Upshot Trio
8 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

Josh Ritter w/ Slow Runner and John Whitaker
9 p.m. Headliner's Music Hall, Louisville. Tickets cost \$5.

The Howling Dog String Band
10 p.m. The Fishtank. Free.

TUESDAY
Dave Matthews
7 p.m. Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$39.50 to \$59.

Widespread Panic
7:30 p.m. Louisville Palace. Tickets cost \$39.50.

Gary Numan
8 p.m. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$19.50 to \$21.

Jucifer
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

COMING SOON
Hurt w/ I Nine and Of Sound Mind
9 p.m. Aug. 3. Headliner's Music Hall, Louisville. Tickets cost \$10.

311
6:30 p.m. Aug. 4. Riverbend Music

Center, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$20 to \$35.

John Hammond
7 p.m. Aug. 4. The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

Breaking Benjamin w/ Evans Blue and Dropping Daylight
8 p.m. Aug. 4. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$22.50 to \$24.

The Stardevils
10 p.m. Aug. 4. Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$5.

The Black Crowes
6:30 p.m. Aug. 5. Riverbend Music Center, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$20 to \$47.75.

Kottonmouth Kings w/ (Hed)pe and Subnoize Soufjaz
8 p.m. Aug. 5. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$20 to \$22.

Born Cross Eyed
11 p.m. Aug. 5. The Fishtank. Tickets cost \$5.

Tom Waits
8 p.m. Aug. 7. Louisville Palace. Tickets cost \$55.

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A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO FANTASY FOOTBALL

We're new at this too, but at least our tips are free

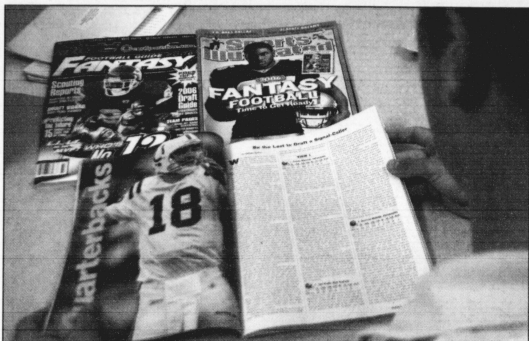


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF

I resisted as long as I could, but I can't fight any longer — I am joining a fantasy football league.



Tim Wiseman
SPORTS EDITOR

As "SportsCenter" aired segment after segment ranking each NFL, excuse me, NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE player, I had a conversion experience. I wanted in to fantasy football, so that I could care about who becomes the Detroit Lions' QB or who will start in the Indianapolis Colts' backfield.

And thanks to the obsession that is fantasy football, now I must know these things.

So I am studying everything I can find to get prepared for my league's draft — Web sites, glossy magazines,

Ben Roethlisberger's accident report and more.

I don't want to be the laughingstock of my league, and you shouldn't be, either. Here are the few pieces of wisdom I have culled in the last few days of prep work:

- Know your league's rules. Simple enough, but it makes a huge difference if you are playing in a points or yardage league and if there are any other quirks.
- Expect to lose your money, unit by unit by unit in July. I had a conversion experience. I wanted in to fantasy football, so that I could care about who becomes the Detroit Lions' QB or who will start in the Indianapolis Colts' backfield.

And thanks to the obsession that is fantasy football, now I must know these things.

So I am studying everything I can find to get prepared for my league's draft — Web sites, glossy magazines,

count every minute detail from their triumphs, so at least gain something from all their hot air.

- Take it seriously. Fantasy football is probably a religion to some in your league, so don't blaspheme by being too casual. Show up on time for the draft. Come prepared to the draft. Turn in your line-ups on time and pay up when you need to. They let you join, so the least you can do is act like you want to be there.

- Don't be emotional. Forget about your loyalties to certain teams and players. I don't care how long you have been a Cleveland Browns fan, Charlie Frye should not be your first pick.

- Don't try and convert the nonbelievers. If someone has avoided the cult of fantasy football, then he or she has their reasons. Don't tell them about why Samkon Gado is the sleeper pick of the year. They will hate you.

E-mail: twiseman@kykernel.com

A DRAFT CHEAT SHEET

- #### Top 5 QBs
1. Peyton Manning; 28 TDs, 3,747 yards passing in 2005
 2. Tom Brady; 26 TDs, 4,110 yards passing in 2005
 3. Matt Hasselbeck; 24 TDs, 3,459 yards passing in 2005
 4. Marc Bulger; 14 TDs, 2,297 yards passing in 2005
 5. Eli Manning; 24 TDs, 3,762 yards passing in 2005

- #### Top 5 RBs
1. Shaun Alexander; 27 TDs, 1,880 yards rushing in 2005
 2. Larry Johnson; 20 TDs, 1,750 yards rushing in 2005
 3. LaDainian Tomlinson; 18 TDs, 1,462 yards rushing in 2005
 4. Edgerrin James; 13 TDs, 1,506 yards rushing in 2005
 5. Tiki Barber; 9 TDs, 1,860 yards rushing in 2005

- #### Top 5 WRs
1. Steve Smith; 12 TDs, 1,563 yards receiving in 2005
 2. Terrell Owens; 6 TDs, 763 yards receiving in 2005
 3. Larry Fitzgerald; 10 TDs, 1,409 yards receiving in 2005
 4. Tory Holt; 9 TDs, 1,331 yards receiving in 2005
 5. Chad Johnson; 9 TDs, 1,432 yards receiving in 2005

— By Bill Tidwell

Bengals hang on Palmer's every preseason workout

By Sam Farmer
LOS ANGELES TIMES

There were explosive drop-backs, sprint rollouts, cleat-twisting cuts to the left and right. Quarterback Carson Palmer muscled his way through them all, turning a Manhattan Beach park into the latest stop on his road to recovery.

As a group of mothers watched their kids play on a nearby climbing structure — unaware that a compelling NFL comeback was being worked on in their midst — as the former USC Heisman Trophy winner tested the limits of his surgically reconstructed left knee.

Palmer didn't wince during the recent workout. But his dad did as he observed from a few yards away. "It scared me to death to watch him," Bill Palmer said. "It was so aggressive. If you watched him, you wouldn't know anything was wrong."

Six months ago something went very wrong, leaving the Cincinnati Bengals' leader writhing on the turf at Paul Brown Stadium. He was injured on the second play from scrimmage of a wild-card playoff game against Pittsburgh. Palmer dropped back and heaved a long pass, absorbing a hit just as he released the ball. He was hit low by 299-pound Steelers defensive lineman Kimo von Oelhoffen, who later explained he

accidentally rolled into Palmer's knee.

"It was a sick feeling for me because I knew right when it happened what was at stake, and I knew I was probably done for that game," said Palmer, whose Pro Bowl season had helped power the Bengals to their first postseason appearance in 15 years. "It was an eerie, sickening feeling. It was very surreal."

As NFL camps open over the next week or so — Cincinnati begins training in Georgetown, Ky., next Saturday — Palmer isn't the only young quarterback on the mend from a serious or even career-threatening injury. New Orleans' Drew Brees sustained a dislocated throwing shoulder while playing in San Diego's finale last season. Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger is recovering from a near-fatal motorcycle accident on June 12. Palmer sustained torn anterior-cruciate and medial-collateral ligaments, a dislocated kneecap, and cartilage and tissue damage. Two days after surgery, the doctor who performed the procedure told the Associated Press that the injury was "devastating and potentially career-ending." That caused an uproar in Cincinnati, where Palmer had recently signed a nine-year, \$118-million contract, and the doctor clarified — and softened — his comments in a news release distributed by the team.

Now, as Palmer glides along in what has been remarkably smooth recovery, there's a question on the lips of every Bengals fan: When will he be back? He looked so sharp running seven-on-seven drills at a recent mini-camp that there is speculation he could return during the first month of the regular season. But Palmer isn't making promises.

"I'm very greedy and I want to be able to do everything now," he said. "I want to be 100 percent, and I wanted to be 100 percent four months ago. Emotionally, that's been the main thing for me, just trying to be patient and realize that this is going to take some time."

"My knee needs time to get healthy."

That Palmer has come so far so fast is impressive, said Dr. Neal ElAttrache, a knee expert who spoke in generalities on the subject because he is not working with the Bengals' quarterback.

While a knee can be nursed back to full strength, it can take much longer for the patient's full confidence in that knee to return.

"You can't talk somebody into that," said ElAttrache, director of the sports medicine fellowship at the Kerlan-Jobe clinic in Los Angeles.

"They have to prove to themselves — they can do it without thinking about their knee."

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Name: Chantel Sowards Death Program: Psychology Dissertation: Cross-Validation of Malingering Tests for Adolescent Forensic Evaluations Date: 08/28/2006 Time: 9:00 AM Place: Rm. 206A Kastle Hall	Name: Christopher Saindell Program: Communication Dissertation: Coordinated Perceptions of Journalists and Official Sources in an Anthrax Attack: A New Theory of Emergency Communication Date: 08/02/2006 Time: 10:00 AM Place: Maggie Room	Name: Matthew Wayne Veal Program: Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering Dissertation: Enhanced Mass Flow Sensing in Grain combines Through Sensor Fusion And Post-Processing Algorithms Date: 08/02/2006 Time: 8:00 AM Place: 126 C.E. Barnhart Building
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IN OUR OPINION

Keeping Cohen good for UK baseball

As much heat as UK Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart has taken from the public for his most visible hire — UK football coach Rich Brooks — he deserves equal praise for some of his other hires, most notably UK women's basketball coach Mickie DeMoss and baseball coach John Cohen.

Last week, Cohen was named National Coach of the Year by CollegeBaseballInsider.com.

Cohen has deservedly been raking up several awards during this offseason. He was also named National Coach of the Year by the College Baseball Foundation, as well as Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year.

In the span of only a year, Cohen transformed his team from a last-place finish in the SEC in 2005 to winning a share of the SEC title this year. Their 44 wins are the most in the program's 102-year history.

"Kentucky was the biggest surprise in college baseball this season," said Sean Ryan, co-founder of CollegeBaseballInsider.com.

"You would be hard-pressed to find anyone — even optimists in Lexington — who could have predicted the Wildcats would win a share of the SEC title," he added.

Cohen's award came one day after he signed a five-year contract to remain at Kentucky for about \$285,000 a year.

After signing his new contract, Cohen was quoted in a UK press release saying, "I appreciate the commitment Mitch Barnhart and the rest of the administration has made in establishing the Kentucky baseball program."

He added, "We have made some great strides but we still have a lot of things we want to accomplish."

Locking Cohen in for another five years can only help in achieving that goal. We also appreciate and applaud Barnhart's resolve to build UK's baseball program to national prominence.

We applaud Cohen for his extraordinary performance this past season. Turning his program from worst-to-first is a remarkable feat in the strong baseball conference that is the SEC.

In his three seasons at UK, Cohen has amassed an overall 97-74 record. This year, six of Cohen's players were selected in the 2006 Major League Baseball Draft, and a total of eight signed professional contracts. And Cohen's first baseman, Ryan Strieby, earned SEC Player of the Year honors after belting 20 home runs to go along with his 77 runs batted in.

In announcing Cohen's new contract, Mitch Barnhart said, "John Cohen is exactly the type of individual we want leading our athletic programs at Kentucky."

"John is a champion. His energy, enthusiasm, work ethic and vision have produced remarkable results in a relatively short period of time. I'm convinced that the success our baseball team enjoyed this past season is a sign of things to come," he said.

We share Barnhart's enthusiasm for the future of baseball at UK. Congratulations to Coach Cohen for his successful season, and for his new contract, which should reap rewards for UK for years to come.

UK should give employees same-sex benefits

The University of Louisville has come under fire recently for deciding to offer benefits to same-sex partners of its employees.

The Cincinnati Post reported that Kentucky legislators are considering legislation to prevent universities from offering their employees domestic partner benefits.

State Sen. Damon Thayer (R — Georgetown) told The Post that domestic partner benefits are simply a way around Kentucky's gay marriage ban, which passed in 2004.

"My problem is you now have an institution of learning that is funded with taxpayer dollars adopting a policy that goes against what most people believe in," he said.

We fail to see the link between offering same-sex benefits and the slippery slope that would lead to homosexual marriage in Kentucky.

The Post reports that nearly half of the 10 largest corporations in the Cincinnati area offer domestic partner benefits to employees. These include Procter & Gamble, Toyota, Ashland and Delta Air Lines.

UK has considered offering do-

mestic partner benefits, along with the University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University.

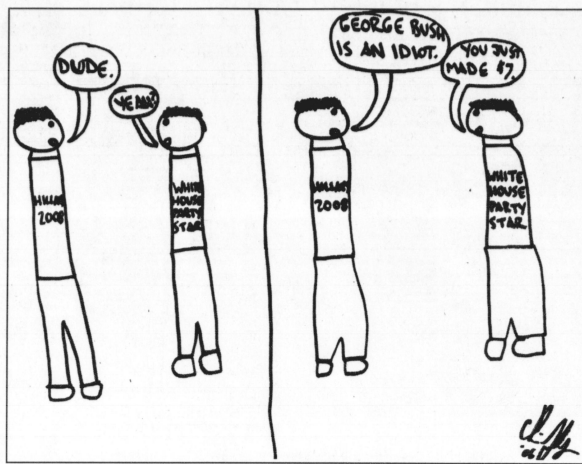
No action has been taken as of yet, probably because university administrators fear the political ramifications such an action would bring.

UK shouldn't be held hostage by the close-minded politics of legislators such as Sen. Thayer.

We could go on and on about how UK should offer same-sex benefits simply because it's the right thing to do, or because not doing so places gay couples on a different moral plane than heterosexual couples.

But domestic partner benefits have pragmatic effects as well. The Post cites a Hewitt Associates survey, which found most companies offer benefits to maintain competitiveness in their industries. The top reason, however, is to attract and retain good employees.

UK should offer the same benefits to its gay employees that it offers straight employees. It's only fair — and in today's world, it's smart business as well.



CHRIS JOHNSON, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

COMMENTARY

Current state budget not in line with constitution

Some things just shouldn't go together.

In recent years, the General Assembly has been mixing up dangerous cocktails comprised of egregious lawmaking coupled with a blatant disregard for Kentucky's constitution, all within the Commonwealth's budget.

Kentucky's budget bill is properly labeled "Carefully spending the 2002 regular session, legislators for the state and, unquestionably, the most important legislation produced by the General Assembly." It's the spending plan for the state and, unquestionably, the most important legislation produced by the General Assembly.

However, when the General Assembly failed to pass a budget during the 2002 regular session, legislators became desperate in their pursuit of more spending and political cover. So they decided that the budget should not just include spending, but also fee increases and special-interest tax credits.

The budget passed in 2003 — a year behind schedule — included several such revenue measures.

After dipping their toes in the waters of shoddy budgeting without incident, this unconstitutional process has engulfed legislators each biennium.

This year's budget was overloaded with revenue measures, including a delayed cut in the corporate tax rate, a freeze on an otherwise variable gasoline tax, a new tax on cigarette rolling papers, a massive fee increase for amusement park rides and new fees attached to many vehicles, including trucks and tractors.

Each of these tax hikes and fee

increases was unpopular. The attempt at delaying corporate tax reductions so angered Kentucky's business owners that Gov. Ernie Fletcher called lawmakers back to Frankfort in June for a special session that restored the cuts.

Telling, isn't it, that when lawmakers were forced to consider an unpopular revenue matter apart from the state's largest appropriation bill, the outcome was exactly the opposite from their earlier vote taken when the issue was included in the budget?

Section 47 of Kentucky's constitution prohibits intermingling appropriations and revenue matters in the same bill. It states that revenue bills must originate in the House and may not include provisions unrelated to raising revenue.

The mandate clearly separates revenue from every other bill subject, including appropriation measures. The last three Kentucky state budgets failed this simple, clear directive.

Raising money for state government activities should not be easy. Every change to the tax code should be considered solely on its own merits. And no amount of political gamesmanship should be able to protect incumbent lawmakers from votes that cut Kentuckians' take-home pay or complicate how business owners calculate tax bills.

Politicians defy the commonwealth's constitution by hiding revenue measures in the guts of other legislation more likely to pass — especially the state's spending plan, the one bill considered by the General Assembly that really matters.

Kentucky's founders wisely anticipated that politicians would find it easier to spend more if allowed to tuck new revenue streams into the final budget bill. By requiring separate bills for legislators to gather up spending money, they provided a mechanism that aims to limit revenues to just the amount needed to provide for basic services and fund the commonwealth's pressing needs.

By insisting that all revenue measures originate in the House, the founders reckoned that legislators, forced to face reelection every two years, would restrain their spending or risk eviction at the hands of local voters with freshly ranked memories.

But while legislators deserve the majority of the blame, Kentucky's chief executive must also bear some responsibility for failing to address their unconstitutional behavior.

Gov. Fletcher, who should provide the last line of defense against unconstitutional budgeting, seems utterly unconcerned about whether the commonwealth's budgets pass constitutional muster. This year, Fletcher signed into law the largest spending plan — stuffed with revenue-enhancing measures — in our state's history.

Fiscal problems aside, this year's budget contained several provisions that simply don't jibe with the only document that all lawmakers swear to uphold — the Kentucky Constitution.

Gale O'Brien is director of KentuckyVotes.org, a voter information Web site. Contact him at brown@kps.org or at (270) 782-2140.

It's horse farms — not Wal-Marts — that make Lexington great

I'm convinced that if a city does not have at least a dozen Wal-Marts and twice as many Starbucks Coffee shops, then it should not be called a city.

Take Lexington for example, we just opened our sixth Starbucks location there with two more in planning. This of course does not count the current three locations on campus with one more in planning.

But this is not enough! What happened to the Starbucks on every corner? Lexington needs to pick up the pace if we are going to compete with the larger cities.

Currently there are only three Wal-Marts in town. Wal-Mart is essential to a city. How else would one eradicate small businesses? Lexington is improving on this aspect because a new facility will be opening in the Hamburg Pavilion soon, only a few hundred yards from Target and Meijer. I might add, Oh, the possibilities!

My satire is not meant to deter the development of Lexington as a city, merely to point out that we are developing in the wrong manner. The Urban County Government's Planning Commission is beginning to debate bringing 7,000 acres of farm land into their borders so that they can develop on the land.

In my lifetime I have already seen farmland of Lexington be taken over and built upon. It wasn't too long ago that Reynolds Road had open land on either side, not a Meijer and a traffic circle that I try my hardest to avoid. When will it ever be enough? When will people be satisfied with the city they have?

Something that seems to have escaped the commission's mind is downtown. One of the issues that candidates of the mayoral race have been discussing is the development of downtown, making it more appealing and attractive to people. After all, the downtown area doesn't even a convenient grocery store, much less a get-it-all-in-one-mammoth-location store.

But if the commission has its way, Lexington will expand itself outward making the center of this city of little consequence.

Who needs to go downtown and desperately try to find a parking spot only to visit the basketball museum and possible a few little shops when they can find plenty of parking in Hamburg and have within a three-mile radius a Target, Meijer, Wal-Mart, Old Navy, Kohls, even a Petsmart (my personal favorite).

Hamburg doesn't lack anything, so why would anyone need to go downtown? Lexington is growing at amazing speeds, but to make this city prosperous and desirable, outward expansion is not necessary. Rebuild downtown, make it more appealing; start working with what we have instead of trying to build more and more."

Will the time come when there is little farm land left at all? A time when horses and tobacco farms are a part of our history?

The Bluegrass is known as the horse capital; maybe saving those 7,000 acres for horses instead of Hamburgs and Fayette Malls will make this city more prosperous.

Even if this city, this city, wasn't known for the land and the farms, they are what support this city. About \$3 billion a year comes from agriculture, and it provides countless jobs.

As much as I love Starbucks, I think that I would love to be able to take a drive in the country and see horses and green grass, instead of bumper-to-bumper traffic on Nicholasville Road even more.

So, to those on the Urban County Planning Commission, think long and hard before you start to chip away at the essence of this city, and as corny as it may sound, remember to save something for the future generations.

Don't let the "Unbridled Spirit" of this state become bridled to corporations and subdivisions. Let it remain in the land, the grass that can appear blue and the horses that have made us so wonderful.

Megan Vazmina is a political science and journalism junior. Email opinions@kykernel.com



Megan Vazmina
KERNEL COLUMNIST

Columnists Needed

The Kernel is looking for new columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis.

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SPORTS BRIEFS



ENK THOMPEN | STAFF
Lexington Horsemen running back Deontea Stewart races past defenders in the Horsemen's 47-34 home win over the Rock River (Ill.) Raptors last weekend. The win sends the Horsemen to the United Indoor Football league title game at the Sioux Falls (S.D.) Storm Saturday night.

Horsemen eye another title

With a 47-34 win over the Rock River (Ill.) Raptors Saturday night, the Lexington Horsemen advanced to the championship of the United Indoor Football league, United Bowl II.

The Horsemen (14-2) move on to face the league's top team, the undefeated Sioux Falls (S.D.) Storm (16-0) at 8 p.m. Saturday at Sioux Falls Arena.

The teams never met in the regular season. Both squads are looking to add to their trophy cases, as Sioux Falls advances to its third straight championship game (second in UIF), while the Horsemen look to win their second national title. In 2004, the Horsemen won the National Indoor Football League crown.

This season, the Horsemen have racked up their best record in franchise history thanks to the play of quarterback Eddie Eviston and wide receivers Harry Lewis and Chad Spencer.

Eviston threw a league-record 59 touchdown passes in the regular season, while Lewis set league marks for receptions (78) and receiving yards (1,002). Spencer broke the league record for TD catches with 22.

UIF MVP quarterback Terrance Bryant leads the Storm and comes off a 202-yard passing performance in the semifinals.

The game will be broadcast on UPN in Lexington (Channel 5 on Insight) and on 630 WLAP-AM.

Cats unveil hoops schedule

The UK men's basketball team will return to Hawaii for the EA Sports Maui Invitational in 2006-07, and its slate of non-conference games also includes eight regular-season games at Rupp Arena.

UK's trip to Maui is its first in four seasons and the fourth time overall (previous appearances in 1993-94, 1997-98 and 2002-03). The Cats are joined by Memphis, UCLA, Oklahoma, Georgia Tech, DePaul, Purdue and host Chattanooga in the 2006 event. The bracket for this year's tournament, scheduled for Nov. 20-22, will be released later.

The Wildcats open the season Nov. 15 by hosting Miami (Ohio), followed by a home game with Mississippi Valley State on Nov. 17.

UK takes on Bobby

Cremens' College of Charleston Nov. 28 at Rupp Arena. After a road game against North Carolina (Dec. 2) and a game against Chattanooga in Freedom Hall (Dec. 5), Indiana comes to Lexington Dec. 9. A week later, the Cats play at Louisville (Dec. 16).

To conclude the non-conference slate, the Cats host Santa Clara (Dec. 19), Massachusetts (Dec. 22), Eastern Kentucky (Dec. 29) and Houston (Jan. 3). Travis Ford, in his second season with the Minutemen, returns to Rupp to coach against his alma mater. UK will play at UMass and Houston in 2007-08.

UK will also host a pair of exhibition games: Nov. 2 against in-state foe Lindsey Wilson and Nov. 6 against South Carolina Upstate.

Fifth Third Bank Tourney rolls on without Witten

The Fifth Third Bank Tennis Championships at campus' Hilary Boone Tennis Center continues through Sunday.

Tickets are \$8 per session and can be purchased at the gate or at area Fifth Third Bank locations.

Former UK star Jesse Witten was upset in the first round for the second straight year, but another former Cat, Tigran Martirosyan remains alive. A complete schedule is available at www.lexington-challenger.com.

Six Cats named All-SEC

Six UK football players were named to the preseason All-Southeastern Conference team, selected by league coaches.

None were chosen for the first team, but two were selected to the second team and four tabbed for the third team.

UK's second-team selections featured junior Rafael Little as both a running back and kick returner, along with junior tight end Jacob Tamme. He led the SEC in punt returns and all-purpose yardage, ranking fifth in the nation in both categories.

Third-team picks included junior linebacker Wesley Woodyard, junior strong safety Roger Williams, senior offensive guard Michael Aitcheson, and sophomore offensive tackle Aaron Miller.

Where are they now? UK football edition

Five former UK football

players are playing in the Canadian Football League, which has begun its 2006 season.

■ Anwar Stewart, defensive end (UK 1996-97, '99), Montreal Alouettes.

■ Craig Yeast, wide receiver (UK 1995-98), Hamilton Tiger-Cats. Yeast is in his fourth season in the CFL after spending three years in the NFL.

■ Quentin McCord, wide receiver (UK 1996, 1998-2000), Winnipeg Blue Bombers. McCord is in his first year playing in Canada after playing three seasons in the NFL.

■ Alexis Bwenge, running back (UK 2002-05), British Columbia Lions. First season in the CFL.

■ Raymond Fontaine, linebacker (UK 2002-05), Toronto Argonauts. First season in the CFL.

L.A. still alive to host 2016 Olympics

Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago stayed in the race as the U.S. Olympic Committee trimmed its list of candidate cities for the 2016 Summer Games, eliminating Philadelphia and Houston.

The action moves the USOC closer to a formal entry into the 2016 contest. If the USOC jumps in, one of the three cities would be picked next spring as the sole U.S. candidate. The International Olympic Committee will choose the 2016 site in 2008.

But USOC officials again made it plain it's far from clear that they're in.

"We have to figure out at the end who has the best chance to win, and if anybody does," USOC Chairman Peter Ueberroth said during a news conference in Denver.

This year has seen American officials significantly intensify efforts overseas to repair the USOC brand.

However, Ueberroth said, "of the three cities that were selected today, there are none that have an acceptable program that we could take to the International Olympic Committee. None."

Chicago and San Francisco have presented plans that emphasize their waterfronts; each needs a suitable stadium. Venues are not an issue in L.A.

The Games have already been staged in Los Angeles twice, in 1984 and 1932.

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