

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

CPE aims to bring adult students back to classrooms

By Jill Laster
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Cecile McKinney returned to college in 1984 with a full-time job, one child and another one due the same day as one of her final exams.

Now she is UK's Adult Student Services director and the school's contact person for Project Graduate, a new effort that will work to bring Kentucky adults back to college.

In a news conference yesterday, the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education announced the first phase of its Double the Numbers program, which aims to increase the amount of college graduates in Kentucky to 800,000 by 2020.

Project Graduate, the first part of

the Double the Numbers program, will target 11,000 adults who have earned 90 or more credit hours but have not obtained a bachelor's degree, said Jim Applegate, the CPE's vice president for academic affairs.

UK has identified 949 former students with 90 or more credit hours as the focus of a targeted marketing strategy.

"A letter from (UK President Lee Todd) will go out to all of these students saying, 'We want you back, here's what we have,'" Applegate said.

The new effort will work to make an adult's transition back to college smoother by improving the availability of financial aid, night and weekend classes, online courses and other services, which are some concerns adult

students have had, Applegate said.

"There will be a lot of issues, but we're at least working with the idea of an academic ombudsman so they don't get lost in the shuffle," Applegate said.

Adult students are only part of the Double the Numbers plan. It also includes efforts to increase high school graduates, community and technical college students moving on to four-year institutions and people receiving General Educational Development certificates.

Part of the importance of bringing adults back to college stems from the fact that not enough children are born in Kentucky to raise the state from the lower end in some national education rankings, such as high school graduates

who pursue college, Applegate said.

According to a study by the Kentucky Institute of Medicine, Kentucky was ranked in 2005 as the 48th state in the percentage of people age 25 and older who have a high school diploma or its equivalent and 47th in the percentage who have a bachelor's degree.

Applegate cited a 2004 Milken Institute index of how a state can succeed in a knowledge-based economy, where Kentucky ranked 48th.

"If you look at the demographic data for Kentucky, if we don't attract these students back to school, we will never hit the national average," Applegate said.

Boosting the number of college graduates will add money and workers to the Kentucky economy, Todd said in

a statement to the Kernel.

"Kentucky's economic progress in the future will depend, in large part, on our ability to create an educated and highly skilled workforce," Todd said.

"That means having more Kentuckians with bachelor's degrees. This initiative is an important part of that process."

The campaign to bring back non-traditional students will go on "until the well runs dry," Applegate said, which will probably be in the next two or three years.

In the next few months, UK Adult Student Services will work with the CPE and the rest of the university to connect new, older students with admissions and financial aid services,

See CPE on page 5

UNDER COVER



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

A man walks toward the engineering courtyard between the Advanced Science and Technology Commercialization Center and the Robotics facility while hiding from the rain under his umbrella during one of yesterday's many sporadic showers.

The rain was expected to stop late last night and make way for a mostly sunny day today, according to the National Weather Service. The temperatures, however, are expected to drop today with highs in the upper 40s and nighttime lows hitting the low 30s.

Profs. win cancer research contract

By Erica Mitchell
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Two scientists at the UK College of Pharmacy have received a \$1.6 million contract from the National Cancer Institute to develop potential cancer treating drugs.

After a lengthy application process, Paul Bummer and Brad Anderson were successful in renewing the five-year contract.

The two scientists are one of three groups in the United States selected and funded by the NCI to conduct studies on cancer treating drugs.

"It is a huge responsibility," said Bummer, the principle investigator of the UK team and associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences. "Nobody is untouched by cancer. We are just part of a massive research effort to attack that problem."

The NCI uses a network of contractors at research institutes and universities to perform research activities required to develop new cancer treating drugs," Anderson said.

"Progress in treating cancer has been slow but significant," said Anderson, a pharmaceutical sciences professor and study co-investigator.

"Nobody is untouched by cancer. We are just part of a massive research effort to attack that problem."

PAUL BUMMER
associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences

The three groups of scientists selected for the contract with NCI work independently and are assigned different compounds or drug substances to work with.

Before a drug is used to treat a patient, it must undergo research, testing and clinical trials. Bummer and Anderson are charged with putting the compounds into practical and useful dosage forms, Bummer said.

After Bummer and Anderson formulate the drug, a separate research team will test it on humans or animals for its effectiveness and toxicity.

"Thousands of people die every year in this country from lung cancer," Bummer said. "That is only one type of cancer. If we can get to the testing point more rapidly, then we can eventually develop new drugs to deal with this scourge of cancer."

A previous NCI contract assigned Bummer and Anderson to work with the compound DB-67. The drug has local interest because Tom Burke, a UK pharmacy professor who died of colon cancer, and Dennis Curran of the University of Pittsburgh, discovered it, Bummer said.

The drug is now undergoing testing in cancer patients at the Markey Cancer Center at UK.

"Hopefully it will prove sufficiently safe and effective to be commercially available in the future and be of benefit to cancer patients everywhere," Anderson said.

Third straight NCAA tourney bid sets school record

By Kenny Colston
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After the most successful season in over a decade, the UK volleyball team expected a selection in the NCAA tournament this year. The team anxiously sat through the selections of 56 other teams Sunday night, but finally the Cats heard their name called for a school-record third straight year.

"I think we earned the right to get in the tournament," head coach Craig Skinner said. "But it's not in your hands. When you go through 56 teams and you don't see your name, it makes you a little nervous."

Without the luxury of an automatic berth, which would have been given if the team won the Southeastern Conference, the Cats (22-9, 13-7 SEC) were forced to wait as the brackets were unveiled Sunday night.

The team watched the selection show on ESPN2 at Sal's Chophouse and after four other SEC teams — Florida, Louisiana State, Mississippi and Alabama — made the tournament, the players finally got their chance to celebrate when UK was called.

"It was kind of tense in there," said senior captain and middle blocker Nicole Britenriker. "We felt confident when Alabama got in, we felt like we should get in."



BRITENRIKER MCINTOSH | STAFF

Senior middle blocker Nicole Britenriker bumps the ball during UK's 3-1 win over Mississippi State on Sept. 14 at Memorial Coliseum.

With only the top 16 teams being seeded, the unseeded Cats landed in the bottom half of the Madison, Wis., region. UK will face unseeded Michigan State (19-13, 10-10 Big Ten) in the first round Friday at 5 p.m., in Dayton, Ohio.

If the Cats advance, a matchup against the 15th overall seed and one

of the regional hosts, Dayton, is likely. And with UK playing less than three hours from Lexington, the team hopes to bring a home-court advantage with them.

"We hope to put a lot of fans in the stands," Britenriker said. "It's not too far from Lexington so that's a good advantage for us."

If the Cats can advance past the first two rounds, there could be a few interesting opponents waiting for them. A potential rematch with in-state foe Western Kentucky — who the Cats beat 3-1 on Aug. 29 — is possible. But the Cats would most likely be facing defending national champion and No. 2 seed Nebraska, where Skinner coached as an assistant from 2000 to 2004.

Before UK can think about potential opponents, it must defeat a Michigan State team that is riding a three-game winning streak.

Michigan State leads the overall series against UK 3-0, but the teams have not played since the Lady Spartans swept the Cats in three games in Memorial Coliseum on Sept. 20, 1997. Michigan State has also defeated several top-25 teams this year.

If the Cats hope to advance past Michigan State and play spoiler in the tournament, they will have to rely heavily on their three All-SEC selections — second-team selection Britenriker, first-team selection junior middle blocker Queen Nzenwa and all-freshman team selection middle blocker Lauren Rapp.

"There are always upsets," said sophomore libero BriAnne Sauer. "And it's awesome to come out of your region and win."

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21 — April 19) Today is a 7 — Figure out who's got what's needed, and what they're asking in return. Only agree if it works for you, too. There is never only one option.

Taurus (April 20 — May 20) Today is a 7 — Let your partner know what you're working on. It's quite possible he or she has the answer you're seeking. Save yourself some time.

Gemini (May 21 — June 21) Today is a 7 — There are many ways to make money, as you may have discovered. Keep looking around, you're liable to stumble onto a few

more. Use your imagination.

Cancer (June 22 — July 22) Today is a 7 — You're pretty sure what you want to accomplish, but there are still barriers. Make your intention crystal clear and watch them fade away.

Leo (July 23 — Aug. 22) Today is a 6 — Responsibilities are in conflict with romantic urges. Show you're made of solid stuff. Take care of business first.

Virgo (Aug. 23 — Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — Sometimes it takes an objective person to explain what's going on right under your own nose in your own household. Don't snap at a well-meaning counselor.

Libra (Sept. 23 — Oct. 22) Today is a 7 — You don't have to let the other guy know how you produce the results. Leave a little mystery — it makes you more appealing. Don't tell everybody everything.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 — Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — Others see how important you and your planning are.

You're the brains behind the operation, and the secret's out. Everybody knows it.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 — Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — You can find the resources you really need. It's not creative financing, it's more like calling in some of the debts that other people owe you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 — Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — It's OK to let your friends help. You'd do the same for them. Besides, it's good for you to learn how to delegate, graciously. You can.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 — Feb. 18) Today is a 7 — You can make sure the most important stuff is ready when it's needed. You may have to pitch a fit. Your efforts will be appreciated.

Pisces (Feb. 19 — March 20) Today is an 8 — There's nothing more empowering than love, as you already know. Add determination and faith, and the prize is as good as won.

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THE DISH

Nicole Richie and Joel Madden's baby countdown has begun. The duo, who are due to become parents midwinter, are planning a baby shower at a private home November 18. "It'll be small, intimate and only her closest friends will be there," says a source close to Richie, 26. And instead of guests bringing them gifts, the soon-to-be mom (who told Diane Sawyer, "I want my child to look up to me and be proud of me") and the Good Charlotte rocker, 28, are asking pals to give cribs, strollers and stuffed animals to the new Richie-Madden Children's Foundation, which supports mothers in need. Next month, their charity will also donate 100 Mom-to-Be kits to the Los Angeles free clinic!

Jack Black's Sweet Daddy Style
How good is funnyman Jack Black at being a father? "I'm going to enter the Best Daddy competition and I'm going to win," the costar of December's *Margot at the Wedding*, 38, says of raising his 17-month-old son, Samuel, with wife Tanya Haden, 36. Black certainly looked like a winner on November 4 in a Beverly Hills park, where he played with the tot and took Samuel's hands to help the little one practice walking on his own.

Brittany Defends Her Love
"Married life is wonderful!" Brittany Murphy told Us at a L'Oréal Paris and Harper's Bazaar Ovarian Cancer Re-

LOVE LIVES

Nicole & Joel — Baby Shower Details!

search Fund benefit in West Hollywood November 7. Not even the shady past of her film writer hubby, Simon Monjack, 37 (including arrest warrants for alleged credit-card fraud), has cast a shadow on the first seven months of their union. The star, 30, says, "This man is the love of my life, and I feel very blessed!"

DTWS' Sabrina Gushes About Mark
Now that she has departed Dancing With the Stars, Sabrina Bryan tells Us she's making the most of her partnership with dancer Mark Ballas, 21: They're dating! "We couldn't stand the thought of not being in each other's lives," admits the Cheekah Girl, 23, who starts work on the group's third movie in January. "You see all this love and chemistry we have? It's so vibrant, and that's how our friendship and relationship is. It's awesome that we have time now away from the competition to really grow." And off the dance floor, they still have that spark: "We have the same outlook on so many things. At one point, Mark and I were like, 'Gosh, I feel like I've known you for 10 years!'"

Miranda & Blake — A Fiery Match!
"We have a very interesting relationship," Blake Shelton, 31, has said of Miranda Lambert, 24. "She can get so mad at me... then we're acting like it never happened." But according to Shelton, it works: "She's some-

body that I'm going to have in my life a long time."

Brad & Kimberly's Baby Joy!
He won Male Vocalist of the Year at the CMA Awards, but Brad Paisley can add Mr. Mom to his resume too. Kimberly Williams-Paisley says the crooner, 35, is a pro when it comes to their 9-month-old, William. "Brad loves giving him his baths," says the According-to Jim star, 36. "We both take responsibility for diaper changes." And how's the baby getting on? "Wonderful. . . . He's crawling and trying to stand now!"

Nicole Kidman's Life After Tom
"Tom and I, we moved and moved and moved," Nicole Kidman recently told Usa Today of life with her ex Tom Cruise, with whom she split in 2001. "Your sense of where do I come from becomes less and less relevant." Her solution? Settling down in Nashville with hubby Keith Urban, 40. "We just bought an acreage in Tennessee, which we're really happy to build a house on," said the actress, 40. "I'm just not willing to give up my life with my man anymore. . . . We're basically inseparable."

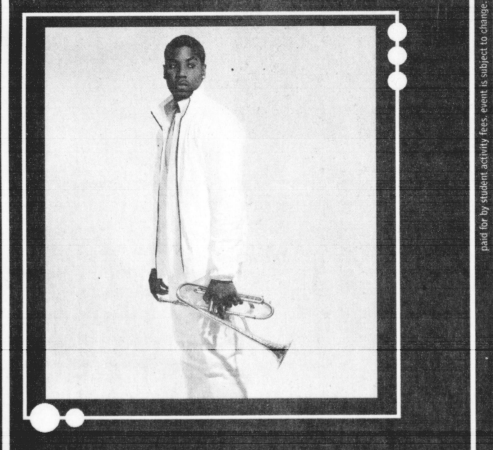
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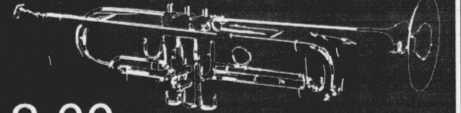
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SPORTS

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Cats hope to avoid a Gardner-Webb repeat in a similar 'trap game' tonight

By Travis Waldron
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Saturday will mark the first day of December, the month when the college basketball season heats up as the temperature outside cools down.

Saturday will also bring UK's first ranked opponent into Rupp Arena this year when North Carolina, No. 1 in The Associated Press poll, makes the trip to Lexington.

But before that, the Cats have their eyes on tonight's game against Stony Brook, and they are not losing focus, head coach Billy Gillespie said.

"I don't think we're in any position right now, the way that we've played, to think we're greater than anyone," Gillespie said. "So we have great respect for our opponents. That's the sign of a team that's getting much smarter and maturing."

Prior to UK's matchup with Gardner-Webb earlier this season, Gillespie called it a classic trap game. Gillespie warned if the Cats had already turned their attention to the final rounds of the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic, where UK was set to meet two marquee opponents, they would fall to Gardner-Webb.

And fall they did.

With UNC coming to Lexington Saturday, Stony Brook could be another "classic trap game" on the UK schedule.

It would not be hard for the Cats to view Stony Brook as a less-than-formidable foe. The Seawolves are 0-5 and are averaging 11.8 points per game less than their opponents. Stony Brook has shot just 35.8 percent from the floor as a team and 25.6 percent from behind the 3-point line. In nine seasons of Division I basketball, the Seawolves have just 77 total wins.

UK has won twice since the

humiliating loss to Gardner-Webb, and Gillespie said his team learned a valuable lesson that night.

"Unfortunately, we got the best lesson anyone at Kentucky's ever had as a basketball player," Gillespie said of the loss to Gardner-Webb. "But it is what it is, and you move on and hopefully you don't let that happen again. Some hard lessons are the best lessons."

Freshman guard Alex Legion has seen the first month of his UK career come and go without experiencing the buzz UNC will bring to Lexington on Saturday, and no one — except his coach — would fault the freshman for looking ahead to the Tar Heels. Though Legion admitted he wanted to play UNC, he is still focused on tonight's opponent, he said.

"I'm looking at Stony Brook," Legion said. "Obviously we're looking forward to playing (North Carolina) but I'm really not focused on them right now."

Though Gillespie would not even acknowledge North Carolina at his news conference Monday afternoon, he did admit the Cats needed to improve to prepare for the rest of their schedule, which includes four games against teams currently ranked in the top 25.

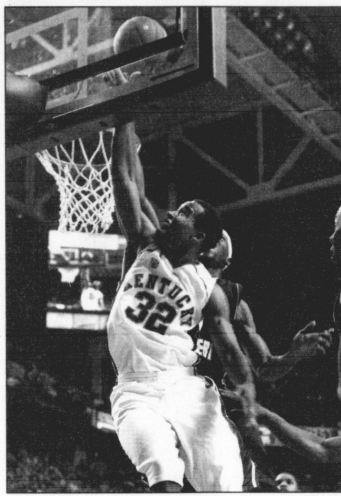
"The time is coming where you're not going to have the best player at each position," Gillespie said.

Until that time, the Cats are focused solely on tonight's opponent.

"We're playing Stony Brook tomorrow," he said. "That's it."

Patterson named SEC Freshman of the Week

Patrick Patterson has not commanded the same accolades as some of his fellow freshmen, but the forward earned his first award yesterday



ELIOTT HESS | STAFF
Senior guard Joe Crawford banks a layup off the backboard during UK's 83-35 win over Texas Southern on Saturday at Rupp Arena.

when he was named the Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Week.

Patterson recorded his second consecutive double-double Wednesday against Liberty, scoring 23 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. It was the first time a UK freshman recorded back-to-back double-doubles since Jamal Mashburn in 1990-91.

He followed that performance with 21 points, seven rebounds, five assists, five steals and two blocks Saturday against Texas Southern.

Benson leaves team

Freshman walk-on Kerry Benson has left the basketball team, Gillespie announced yesterday.

"He's not with us anymore," Gillespie said. "That hurts us because he did a good job for us. He decided he was ready to move on."

Benson, a Louisville native, played against Central Arkansas and Liberty, totaling five points in 23 minutes. Benson is staying at UK to work toward his degree, Gillespie said.

Competing in practice is key to UK's success

After taking a quick glance at UK's record, any blind mouse can see the Cats have played in four games, three of which resulted in wins and a tie.



J.D. WILLIAMS
Kernel columnist

But it's the games in between those outings at Rupp Arena that are invisible to the naked eye.

Freshman guard Alex Legion takes the rough and rugged practices of UK head coach Billy Gillespie into account.

"The way he describes practice is like a game," Legion said. "We can either win a game or lose a game. That's how we prepare for practice."

Like the games that make up the Cats' 3-1 record, Legion said the team can also win or lose a practice. When the Cats are winning practices, they leave the gym with a "sense of pride," the guard from Detroit said.

UK will need that same pride tonight when they tip-off against Stony Brook, a winless team this season. One of the main goals that Gillespie has made for the team heading into the game is to be more competitive. That competitive spirit begins at practice.

Sophomore guard Michael Porter said Gillespie has been talking about "bringing more to the table in practice, like competing against your guy and having more pride trying to make each other better."

"He's been stressing it so much, I think it's finally getting in our head," Porter said.

But one thing UK can't afford to let go over their head is playing against Stony Brook.

The Seawolves will be hungry for their first win, and there would be no better way to get it than against a team that is first in the NCAA in all-time wins. If UK has learned anything this season, it's been to not overlook an opponent — even with North Carolina, the No. 1 team in The Associated Press poll, coming to town Saturday.

On paper UK beats out Stony Brook in most statistical categories. The Seawolves shoot just 35.8 percent from the floor com-

pared to UK's 49.1 clip. But Stony Brook knows the success of beating big programs on the road. Last season the Seawolves traveled to Penn State and handed the Nittany Lions a 59-51 loss.

Although UK says it's not sleeping on the Seawolves, it's easy to get sidetracked when a school that most people can't locate on a map comes rolling into Rupp Arena.

"They haven't won a game yet, but they played Villanova very well," Gillespie said about Stony Brook's first game of the season. "They play pretty well. They play hard, and they change up all kinds of defenses, so it will be a good test for us."

Regardless of the opponents or the statistics they bring, the Cats have their eyes set on being more competitive tonight, much like they've been doing in practice.

Because if they don't play hard and competitive like they've done since the Gardner-Webb slip-up, and they're caught daydreaming to the big test on Saturday, the Cats will be nothing other than embarrassing bluish on their record.

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Tuesday 27 th	Wednesday 28 th	Thursday 29 th	Friday 30 th	Saturday 1 st	Sunday 2 nd
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cassidy Elementary, 8:00 AM, Cassidy Elementary Volunteering at Landsdowne Elementary, Landsdowne Elementary Old Master Works on Paper from the Collection, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts Volunteering at the Hope Lodge, 6:30 PM, The Hope Lodge (right next to Commonwealth Stadium) Yates Elementary, 2:45 PM, Cassidy Elementary Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center LTMS, 11:00 AM, Cassidy Elementary UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts STAG Bakesale, Student Center Starbucks Kempis self-defense class, 8:00 PM, Alumni Gym Loft National Student Exchange Info Session, 3:30 PM, 102 Miller Hall Chevy Seat Tuesday: Superbuds, 8:00 PM, Worsham Theater (Student Center) UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts STAG, 5:00 PM, SC 211 DanceBlue Captains Meeting, 6:00 PM, SC 249 Honors Program Student Council meeting, 7:00 PM, Student Center Rm 206 The Patterson School of Diplomacy & International Commerce Open House, 6:00 PM, 420 Patterson Office Tower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer w/ Beaumont Buddies, 4:00 PM, Beaumont Middle School Old Master Works on Paper from the Collection, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts BINGO at Mayfair Manor, 3:00 PM, Mayfair Manor Yates Elementary, 2:45 PM, Cassidy Elementary Cassidy Elementary, 8:00 AM, Cassidy Elementary UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts LTMS, 11:00 AM, Cassidy Elementary Volunteering at Landsdowne Elementary, Landsdowne Elementary Christian Scott Concert, 8:00 PM, Student Center Grand Ballroom Project Health Meeting, 4:00 PM, Student Center Rm 115 Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center STAG Bakesale, Student Center Starbucks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteering at Landsdowne Elementary, Landsdowne Elementary UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center Cassidy Elementary, 8:00 AM, Cassidy Elementary CCC Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 PM, 106 Student Center Old Master Works on Paper from the Collection, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts LTMS, 11:00 AM, Cassidy Elementary Yates Elementary, 2:45 PM, Cassidy Elementary STAG Bakesale, Student Center Starbucks 5 Bad Tournament (Qualifier), 7:00 PM, UK Student Center Cats Den STAG Meeting, SC 211 or SC 220 Pu Shows, 12:30 PM, 208 Student Center DanceBlue Subcommittee Meeting, 6:00 PM, SC 203 Celebration of Land Grant Research/ Stokes Lecture, 2:30 PM, E.S. Good Banquet Hall Last Minute Job Search Strategies, 4:30 PM, James W. Stuckert Center NextFrame Film Festival, 10:00 PM, Worsham Theater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 3:00 PM, Carnegie Center BINGO at Mayfair Manor, 3:00 PM, Mayfair Manor Cassidy Elementary, 8:00 AM, Cassidy Elementary LTMS, 11:00 AM, Cassidy Elementary Sing-A-Long at Ashland Terrace, 11:15 AM, Ashland Terrace Italian Conversation Practice, 3:00 PM, Coffea Island Volunteering at Landsdowne Elementary, Landsdowne Elementary UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts Yates Elementary, 2:45 PM, Cassidy Elementary Old Master Works on Paper from the Collection, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts Grizzly Man, 10:00 PM, Center Theater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteering at the Carnegie Center, 10:00 AM, Carnegie Center UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts Old Master Works on Paper from the Collection, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts Volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, 10:00 AM, the Ronald McDonald House (right next to Commonwealth Stadium) Holiday Swing Dance, 8:00 PM, Arthur Murray Dance Studio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Master Works on Paper from the Collection, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts Compline Service, 9:00 PM, Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church UK Art Faculty Exhibition, 12:00 PM, UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts

Ky. plane crash kills one

By James Mayse
 Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, Ky.

One person was killed Monday evening when a small plane crashed into an empty field just southwest of Owensboro.

The plane, a twin engine Cessna, crashed at 5:15 p.m. on Kentucky 554 between Todd Bridge Road and Fitts Road. Daviess County Coroner Bob Howe said before 7 p.m. that one person, the pilot, had been killed in the crash, but that the person had not yet been identified.

No one on the ground was injured. County emergency management director Richard Payne said the plane's flight path was from Evansville to Owensboro. Corey Hall, Jeff Hall and Jenna Hall were driving toward U.S. 431 on Todd Bridge Road after leaving Apollo High School when they saw the small plane hurtling downward. "I thought it was a fallen star, out of the corner of my eye," Corey Hall said. "It was coming straight down. I had

time to yell, 'It must be a plane, it must be a plane.'" "I saw the red and the white lights going almost straight down," Jenna Hall said. Jeff Hall said the family smelled gas after the plane crashed. Firefighters roped off much of the field with accident scene tape to keep people from approaching the site. Payne said the Federal Aviation Administration was notified and said the FAA would conduct the official investigation.

China-made toys popular despite recalls

By Joe Blumberg
 St. Joseph News-Press, Mo.

From Wall Street to Wal-Mart, toys exemplify a manufacturing industry that pulled up stakes in the U.S.

None of the hype about toy recalls has stopped the popularity of Chinese-made toys. (Recalls this year included Barbies with lead paint and Aqua Dots that digested into gamma hydroxy butyrate, a date-rape drug.)

Parents place more stock in Santa's list than a manufacturing label.

"It doesn't really cross my mind," said Mary Cobb, a Gower, Mo., mother of three boys. "In some aspects maybe it should, but you try to get what they want, within reason."

Not that there's much of an alternative: About 80 percent of toys sold in the U.S. are made in China, according to numerous industry and news estimates.

Those include nearly all of the major toy brands.

In a recent trip down the Wal-Mart toy aisles, the only U.S.-made toys the News-Press could find were Crayola crayons, Milton Bradley and Parker Brothers board games, some K'Nex building sets and a limited number of Leap Frog Baby "Little Leaps" pads.

Donna Goodman, owner of Awesome Toys & Hobbies in St. Joseph, said she tries to find the best toys at the best price and avoids recalled toys "like the plague."

"People are not really going out of their way to find American toys," Ms. Goodman said. "If people see that it is, they might think it's a bonus, but I've never seen someone put back a toy because it wasn't made in America."

The toy market turns the old American import ideology on its head.

Car buyers of the previous three decades could turn to Japan for quality engineering. But they had to be willing to pay a premium and risk angering their Teamster neighbor.

Now Americans import because it's cheap. (They also no longer have to import most Hondas

and Toyotas, which are built in factories in Ohio and Kentucky.)

Whereas the old American factories brought to mind quality products and an up-by-the-bootstraps middle class, China's Pearl River Delta brings news of harmful chemicals and grossly underpaid workers living under Communism.

The U.S. is now the world's biggest importer, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The 2006 trade deficit of goods was \$836 billion, but in services the U.S. had a surplus of \$73 billion.

For a man-at-the-bar perspective, consider John Ratzemberger. He's better known as his character, Cliff Clavin, the postman from the TV show "Cheers."

Mr. Ratzemberger and the Alliance for American Manufacturing, which includes the United Steelworkers union, host town-hall meetings advocating for the U.S. government to protect its industries.

"This is what we do. This is who we are. When politicians tell us we're going to become a service economy, that's a myth," Mr. Ratzemberger told an audience in Columbus, Ohio, according to the Associated Press.

Blue-collar workers might fail to see the "free" in free trade.

The cost for them is jobs, and St. Joseph has paid in the thousands.

But some economists see it differently.

They argue that overseas low-wage workers hold down prices. Broader production means access to more types of goods. And technology and competition force behemoth companies to evolve (think General Motors and Ford).

Jagdish N. Bhagwati, a senior fellow for the Council on Foreign Relations and professor at Columbia University, strongly advocates for free trade.

He told Congress this year that evidence for a Chinese connection to wage losses in the U.S. is "pretty thin." The biggest problem for American workers is that new technology makes high-wage, low-skill labor obsolete.

"The fear of globalization, and hence of China, on our wages was unjustified," he said.

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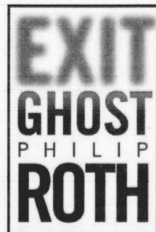
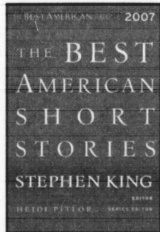
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Continued from page 1

McKinney said.
 "As an adult student, you're dealing with more responsibilities," she said. "Adult students are different than traditional students because so much counts on getting a degree."
 McKinney said the three-person Adult Student Services staff should be able to handle the flux in new adult students without hiring additional personnel. Even though there will be more work, she said, the staff always gets excited when returning students get their diplomas.
 "When they come to us and say they are graduating in December, we get as excited as if we are walking down the aisle," McKinney said.

Sen. Lott to step down at end of congressional session

By Anita Lee and Kati Magandy
 McClatchy Newspapers

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — The time was right to step aside, the U.S. Senate's second-ranking Republican, Trent Lott, told a hometown crowd when he announced Monday that he will resign after completing one year of a six-year term.
 Lott has said he planned to retire before Hurricane Katrina, but stayed to help Mississippi, where 42 counties were hit by the storm, particularly Lott's home base on the Gulf Coast. He said he thinks he has done what he can and now wants to devote more time to his family and professional interests.
 Lott, known for his diplomacy and ability to strike compromise from a leadership position, did not criticize his colleagues in Congress but did express frustration over the slow pace of progress, even with legislation that raises little controversy.

"I've always believed that just by sheer energy and tenacity you can get legislation passed," Lott said. "We did that in the 90s when I was in the majority leadership position ... but this year I've fought it awfully tough."
 At 66, Lott indicated he is willing to leave the battle to a younger successor.
 "I've been in the majority, I've been in the minority, back and forth six times," Lott said. "I don't like being in the minority as much and if I were 20 years younger, I would be mounting my horse, saying I want the majority back."
 Lott, who has served in the House and Senate for 35 years, will step down at the end of this congressional session. He offered a prepared statement at the La-Font Inn, scene of so many of his past political events, including his first Senate victory party in 1972. He also served 17 years in the House as a Republican and four years as administrative assistant to Rep. William Colmer, the Democrat who

preceded him in the House seat.
 Lott served as Senate majority whip from 1996 until 2002, ending his leadership with a controversial statement at former Sen. Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday party. At the time, Lott expressed support for Thurmond's decidedly segregationist campaign for president in 1948. Lott quickly apologized for his remarks. He was able to regain leadership in his party by 2006 and said he is pleased to be leaving on "a positive note."
 "I wanted to have this opportunity again today and thank you for these 35 years in the Congress," Lott said.
 Lott said he has spoken with President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Gov. Haley Barbour and assured them he will collaborate and consult with them on a successor. Bush was supportive, indicating Lott will be missed as Senate whip. Lott is the sixth GOP senator to retire this year.

"Trent enjoyed bipartisan respect because of his reverence for the institutions of Congress and because Republicans and Democrats knew they could count on him to keep his commitments and his word," Bush said. "His immense talent will be missed in our nation's capital. Laura and I wish him and his wife Tricia all the best."
 Barbour announced he will appoint a replacement for Lott within 10 days of Lott's resignation, expected after the session. The appointed senator will serve until a special election Nov. 4, when the presidential election is scheduled.
 Barbour said he will not be a candidate for the office.
 Lott's resignation came days after Mississippi's senior senator, Republican Thad Cochran, decided to seek re-election. The opening of the seat does not immediately worry Republicans, said a top GOP aide who maintains "Mississippi is a red state."

Clinton vs. Obama: Black women struggle over which milestone means most

By Edward M. Eveld
 McClatchy Newspapers

Americans love firsts. But which first should be first:
 The first woman nominated by a major party to be president?
 Or the first African-American?
 Tough question, and it's razor-sharp for many in a particular subset of U.S. voters: African-American women.
 Beatrice Agee said that after hearing more than a few discussions about Hillary Clinton vs. Barack Obama, she gave the phenomenon a nickname.
 "It's the 'OH effect,'" said Agee. "Obama and Hillary. You have to think hard and think long to choose between the two candidates."
 People want to believe that "anyone can grow up to be president." If Clinton or Obama prevails as the Democratic nominee and then in the 2008 election, that aphorism could extend beyond white men for the first time.
 Agee likes that Obama is relatively fresh on the scene. And she likes Clinton's experience. Both are capable and willing, she said.
 But she has decided that gender and race will not be deciding factors for her. Instead, she will listen to hear which one offers solutions to the country's financial troubles, to name one issue.

Everything from the home mortgage fiasco to health care to credit card debt.
 And while Agee says she supports U.S. troops, she wants to hear a clear view about what should happen next in Iraq.
 "I'm a woman and I'm a black woman, but in the 21st century I think it goes beyond that."
 For Victoria Dixon, race trumped gender in her decision to support Obama. Dixon works at a local television station and is a volunteer in the Obama campaign. On a recent Saturday she showed visitors through the candidate's campaign office in Kansas City, Mo.
 "The gender side never factored in for me," Dixon said. "As an African-American candidate, he really inspired me more. I feel as a people we need to stand behind him."
 But her identification with him went much deeper than race, she said.
 "When I saw Barack for the first time, he just reminded me of Bobby Kennedy," said Dixon, who was a baby when Kennedy was assassinated. "Something new, something fresh. I had to jump on board."
 To Dixon, Clinton is the establishment candidate, representing "the same ol' same ol'."
 Nancy Butler, a retired teacher, said it is still too early to pick one over the


other.
 Butler regards Clinton as a brilliant person who has endured much and who is respected all over the world. On the other hand, she said, "Hillary has a lot of obstacles to overcome because she has more history."
 And Obama?
 "I got a chance to hear Obama for a complete interview on television," she said. "I like the way he handled himself. He, too, has grown."
 So for now she's keeping an open mind, but open only to Obama and Clinton.
 "I definitely think Democrats have a choice between Obama and Clinton and that's it," Butler said. "Nobody else stands a chance."
 Of course, African-American women aren't literally limited to a choice between Clinton and Obama. Those who vote Republican have their own candidates to consider. And the Democrats have a field of eight candidates in Iowa.
 Taryn Hodison pushed her laptop aside at a local coffee shop one afternoon this month when asked if she was weighing Clinton and Obama.
 Hardly. She has supported John Edwards ever since the 2004 campaign.
 Hodison likes that Edwards has taken on the issue of poverty, a topic im-

portant to her and one the other candidates haven't focused on.
 "His values are closest to my own," said Hodison, a senior in psychology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.
 Hodison finds it thrilling to see Obama energize young people, but she can't see him winning over enough American voters to prevail in the general election.
 "I feel like there's still a lot of prejudice," she said. "I feel like we're a long way from a black person being president."
 More voters would entertain the prospect of a woman as president than an African-American, she said. But Clinton's problem is her last name, which carries a lot of negatives for some people. She thinks Edwards is the Democrat most electable in November 2008.
 Shelia Johnson thinks she has a long history with the Clintons. She read their books. She voted for Bill Clinton for president. The Clintons have backed causes important to African-Americans. And Hillary Clinton is a strong person with an impressive career, she said.
 "There are several things I love and respect about Hillary Clinton and what she represents for women across the world," said Johnson.
 Such thoughts are shared by many

American blacks, who were strong supporters of the former president.
 Polls have shown in recent months that African-American women prefer Clinton to Obama. For overall voters in Iowa, which holds its caucuses Jan. 3, a recent poll showed a tight race, with 25 percent preferring Clinton, 23 percent for John Edwards and 22 percent for Obama.
 Johnson first became aware of Obama when the then-state legislator from Illinois delivered his blockbuster keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.
 "Who was that?" she recalled saying. "I had never heard of that man."
 After her book club read Obama's autobiography "Dreams From My Father," Johnson felt drawn to him, particularly to his passion and his compassion.
 "He seems to unite people from all walks of life," she said.
 Ultimately Shelia Johnson's admiration for Clinton as a powerful, experienced woman yielded to her hopes and enthusiasm for Obama. She's now a volunteer in his local campaign.
 "Either way it goes," Johnson said, "it's historical and it's amazing. My granddaughter is going to be reading about this as she grows up because it's going to be in the history books."

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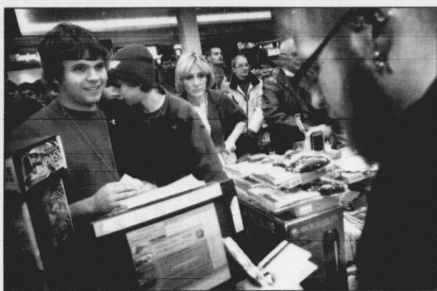
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Around 2:30 a.m., Tyler Effertz, left, purchases an Xbox 360 Elite, a few games and accessories in the Game Stop store in Eden Prairie Centers, Minnesota, on Black Friday.

GLEN STUBBE MCT



Holiday shopping: more traffic, less spending

By Greta Guest
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — More shoppers were out, but they spent less money over the Thanksgiving weekend compared with last year, according to one national survey.

More than 147 million people went shopping over the three-day holiday weekend, up 4.8 percent over 2006 crowds, the National Retail Federation survey said Monday.

Consumers spent an average of \$347.44, down 3.5 percent from last year, but still up 14.8 percent from 2005. Retailers made up for the lower average spending with increased traffic.

"Knowing that consumers would be challenged by the current economic environment, retailers hoped that higher traffic would offset lower individual spending, which it did," said Phil Risi, spokesman for BIGresearch, which conducted the consumer survey for the retail federation.

At Somerset Collection in Troy, Mich., the parking lot with 7,000 spaces was 100 percent full many times over the weekend with shoppers being shuttled from nearby lots, spokeswoman Linda McIntosh said Monday.

"Our new luxury stores were doing very well. People seemed to know what they want this year, whether it was a Burberry handbag or Uggs boots," McIntosh said. "There were so many

wonderful sales, more so than I've ever seen in previous years. If it's a high-demand item people are getting it rather than waiting."

"For everything we hear about the economy, I have to say people are in a great mood," she said.

The national retail survey indicated that as of Sunday, the average person had completed 36.4 percent of his or her holiday shopping, about the same pace as last year. Just 8.2 percent of consumers said they are done with their holiday shopping.

Lorraine Wangler, 42, of Royal Oak, Mich., said she always avoids the Thanksgiving weekend hoopla. She shops for her six children, who range in age from 10 to 19.

"I don't like the mobs. It's too crazy. And my kids are older, so it's not like I need that blockbuster thing," Wangler said Monday.

So after Thanksgiving weekend, Wangler gets together her children's wish lists and adds a few staples like socks and underwear and starts her shopping after the big rush. She tries to keep to a budget of about \$200 per child.

"I'm starting now," Wangler said Monday while shopping. "I want to get it done in a week."

At Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills, Mich., stores were seeing single-digit sales increases on Saturday. At Twelve

Oaks Mall, sales were flat at stores surveyed, yet mall gift cards rose by double-digits for the day, according to Taubman Centers Inc., which owns both malls.

Friday was even better for the malls. Partridge Creek in Clinton Township, Mich., had all its restaurants booked for the night by 4 p.m.

"I'd say that Friday was fantastic, Friday was great, Saturday was good and Sunday was fair. Overall, we were thrilled with the kickoff to the holiday season," said Taubman spokeswoman Karen MacDonald. "It doesn't necessarily mean it will be a strong season, but it does show the mind-set of the consumer. Many of our stores tell us they were up mid-single-digits for the weekend."

The national retail survey defined the weekend as sales from Thursday to Sunday. The poll of 2,395 consumers was conducted by BIGresearch from Thursday to Saturday and had a margin of error of plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

National Retail Federation President and CEO Tracy Mullin said: "Though Black Friday weekend was a complete success for many retailers, the results of the holiday season won't be determined until the last two weeks of December."

The retail federation predicts that holiday sales will rise by 4 percent this year to \$474.5 billion.

Hurricane forecasts miss the mark

By Martin Mezer
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — Two years ago, way under. Last year, way over. This year, still not right.

It's been a stormy few years for William Gray, Philip Klotzbach and other scientists who predict total hurricane activity before each season begins, which raises fundamental questions as the 2007 season draws to an end on Friday.

Why do they bother? And given the errors which can undermine faith in the entire hurricane warning system — are these full-season forecasts doing more harm than good?

"The seasonal hurricane forecasts certainly have a lot of explaining to do," said Max Mayfield, former director of the National Hurricane Center.

"The last couple of years have humbled the seasonal hurricane forecasters and pointed out that we have a lot more to learn before we can do accurate seasonal forecasts," he said.

The numbers provide abundant support for those statements.

Just before the season started on June 1, the nationally prominent Gray-Klotzbach team at Colorado State University predicted that 17 named storms would grow into nine hurricanes, five of which would be particularly intense, with winds above 110 mph.

A different team at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted 13 to 17 named storms, seven to 10 hurricanes and three to five intense hurricanes.

The actual results for the 2007 season: 14 named storms, five hurricanes, two intense hurricanes.

"That turned a season predicted to be extremely active into one that was about average in number of storms and well below average in total intensity."

Even mid-season corrections issued by both teams in August — somewhat akin to changing your prediction about a baseball game during the fifth inning — proved wrong.

Their pre-season predictions in 2005 and 2006 were even worse.

The teams defend their forecasts, saying they are based on the best science available, were closer to the mark in prior years and serve an important public service.

"The seasonal forecasts are quite good," said Gerry Bell, NOAA's lead seasonal forecaster. "Last year, we over-predicted and this year we over-predicted, but our track record, I think, is excellent."

Klotzbach, who now is the lead forecaster of the Colorado State team created more than two decades ago, said long-range predictions satisfy the public's "inherent curiosity."

Both teams employ what they call "climate signals" — a variety of ocean and atmospheric conditions — along with historical records to produce their forecasts.

"Seasonal forecasts are meant to provide people with the best information possible about how active or inactive the coming season is likely to be," Klotzbach said.

Mayfield and virtually all hurricane researchers and forecasters, some of whom were

skeptical years ago, now support the issuing of full-season predictions.

But many openly share concerns about the current system, focusing in particular on NOAA's tendency to subtly link the National Hurricane Center near Miami to the seasonal forecasts produced by Bell's team, which is based in Maryland.

In fact, it is important to emphasize the distinction between the six-month seasonal forecasts and the real-time forecasts of an actual hurricane or other tropical system, which are called "operational forecasts."

Several researchers at the hurricane center worked with Gray in the past and contribute to the data collected by Bell's team, but the center's real-time forecasters play no substantive role in the full-season predictions and are not responsible for them.

Many of them worry, however, that substantial errors in those full-season predictions can undermine faith in their generally accurate forecasts of actual storms.

They note that NOAA, the parent agency of both the hurricane center and Bell's team, often releases Bell's predictions during pre-season news conferences conducted at the hurricane center.

During other years, the hurricane center's director is ordered to participate in the pre-season news conference, wherever it might be held.

"NOAA has been using the good name of the National Hurricane Center, at least to some extent, to help promote the seasonal product and that's not the mission of operational hurricane forecasters," Mayfield said.

"In some areas, hurricane forecasters are losing credibility even though they are not the lead on this — and that's always a concern," he said. "We don't want the credit for the seasonal forecasts."

Bell said the differences between the two groups should be clear to the public by now. He said South Floridians and other residents of the hurricane zone should never disregard real-time forecasts, especially based on a misconception about the full-season predictions.

"There's no basis for those kinds of comments," Bell said, "especially if they're made by people who don't know what they're talking about."

Another concern focuses on the hyperactivity of the Gray-Klotzbach team, which issues not one, not two but six forecasts before and during the season.

The first arrives in early December, forecasting the outcome of a hurricane season that doesn't begin for six months. Maintaining the baseball comparison, that would be like predicting ... this past October — the Marlins' precise win-loss record in 2008.

"If Gray were honest, he would say they have no skill in making predictions that far in advance," said Jeff Masters, a former NOAA hurricane researcher who now serves as chief meteorologist of the Weather Underground. "It's just an interesting mental exercise."

Nevertheless, Masters also favors the issuing of seasonal forecasts.

"If you put good science in the hands of people, that's always a benefit," he said.

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Bush to open Mideast conference but will not stay for discussion

By Warren P. Strobel and David Lightman
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President Bush, who has largely ignored the risky business of Middle East peacemaking throughout his nearly seven years in office, will take center stage Tuesday at the international peace conference he's hosting in Annapolis, Md.

He won't remain there for long, however. Bush plans to head back to the White House after delivering his opening speech to the diplomats and dignitaries at the U.S. Naval Academy, and while surprises are always possible, White House aides said he wasn't planning to offer new American proposals to resolve the conflict.

Nor is Bush expected to jump into extended post-Annapolis negotiations or head off to the Middle East to pursue peace in the waning days of his tenure.

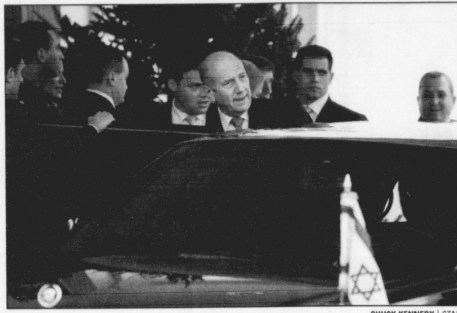
White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said the president's speech would include "a little more detail." But when she was asked to describe his message, she replied: "I would describe it as 'encourage.'"

Barring sustained presidential involvement, however, it remains doubtful that Israeli and Palestinian leaders — even with generous supplies of good will — can reach a deal over an independent Palestinian state. That will require painful compromises on emotional issues such as the future of Jerusalem, the borders of a Palestinian state and the right of Palestinian refugees to return to homes in what's now Israel.

"Almost everything they want to do requires a level of involvement that is just qualitatively different than anything we've seen before" from this president, said Dennis Ross, who had a leading role in Middle East negotiations under Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

"This late in the day, administrations don't tend to change their sociology," said Ross, who's now at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a research center on Middle East affairs.

Bush kicked off the diplomacy Monday, welcoming Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas separately to the Oval Office. On Monday evening, he was traveling to the State Department to attend a dinner for the nearly 50 foreign delegations attend-



Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, center, departs the White House in Washington, Monday after a meeting with President George W. Bush.

ing the Annapolis meeting.

Bush told Olmert that he was "optimistic" about the conference. Olmert seemed more cautious, focusing on the fact that Arab countries that don't recognize Israel have agreed to attend. "We are going to have lots of participants in what I hope will launch a serious process of negotiations between us and the Palestinians," he said.

Bush made it clear to Abbas that he anticipated a limited role for himself.

"The United States cannot impose our vision, but we can help facilitate," he said.

Bush took office in 2001 harshly critical of Clinton's eleven-hour efforts to forge a peace deal at Camp David, which collapsed amid a new wave of Israel-Palestinian violence.

Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice maintain that conditions have changed, citing Abbas' opposition to violence, the engagement of Arab powers such as Saudi Arabia and Sunni Muslim Arabs' fear of an assertive Iran.

But there were reminders Monday of entrenched opposition to compromise in the Middle East.

"The Annapolis conference is of no use, and any decisions taken at the conference are not binding on the Palestinian people, but only binding on those who signed them," Ismail Haniyeh, the prime minister of Hamas' government in the Gaza Strip, told Al-Jazeera television.

Iran also predicted defeat for the conference, while thousands of Israelis opposed to the talks gathered at Jerusalem's Western Wall to protest.

The Annapolis conference isn't meant to reach any agreements. Rather, it's supposed to launch renewed negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, with the ambitious goal of reaching a historic deal within a year.

Negotiators from both sides, with an assist from Rice, were racing to complete a joint declaration to guide future negotiations.

Palestinians had hoped that the document would delve in detail into thorny issues such as borders and refugees. But now it seems certain to be vague, reaffirming the sides' commitment to an independent Palestinian state and to the 2003 "road map" for peace.

Gates Foundation, Rotary pledge \$200 million to fight polio

By Deborah L. Shelton
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Aiming to inject \$200 million into the global campaign to eradicate polio, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced Monday that it is awarding a \$100 million challenge grant to the Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation said it plans to match the Gates grant dollar-for-dollar through fundraising over the next three years. In the first year alone, Rotary expects to spend \$100 million on immunization projects in the four remaining countries where polio is still endemic.

The grant is one of the largest challenge grants ever awarded by the Gates Foundation and is the largest given by any organization to Rotary. The foundation is the nonprofit charitable arm of Rotary International, which has contributed \$633 million to efforts to

stamp out polio.

Eradicating the crippling and potentially fatal disease would represent a landmark public health achievement, and some global health experts believe the world stands at the brink of seeing that goal realized. Other experts are not so sure.

Scientists and public health professionals have been debating whether eradication is possible. Some have argued that resources should be directed at trying to contain the disease, which would be far less costly than trying to eliminate it entirely.

That idea was dismissed during Monday's announcement.

"Eradicating polio is an achievable goal," said William Gates Sr., co-chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, said: "We have very few opportunities to improve the world in a permanent way. And

this is one."

Polio has stricken untold millions around the world. In 1952, its peak year in the U.S., it paralyzed more than 20,000 Americans.

But it became a disease of the past in this country after the discovery of a preventive vaccine in the 1950s and widespread immunization. Gone were widespread fears about sudden, debilitating paralysis and the use of massive iron lungs to keep people alive. No cases of infection from "wild virus" — transmitted from person to person — have been reported in this country since 1979.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative was launched in 1988, led by the World Health Organization, Rotary International, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF. At that time, more than 125 countries reported polio cases.

Since then, the incidence of polio has been cut by more than 99 percent, and endemic wild polio virus has been eliminated in every country except Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Armed conflicts, cultural barriers and geographical isolation are among the obstacles to stamping out polio in those countries.

Last year, fewer than 2,000 cases were reported worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

Polio myelitis mainly affects children under age 5. The virus enters the body through the mouth, multiplies in the intestine and invades the nervous system. One in 200 polio infections leads to irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs. Among those paralyzed, 5 to 10 percent die when muscles in their chest become immobilized and they are unable to breathe. Polio is incurable.

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

■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

Beshear should act to end costly lawsuit after taking office

With only a few weeks left in office, Gov. Ernie Fletcher is asking for the dismissal of a lawsuit concerning the political affiliations of the people he appointed to governing boards at state universities, such as UK's Board of Trustees, the Kernel reported Nov. 15.

The suit, filed by Attorney General Greg Stumbo, says Fletcher violated state law by appointing too many Republicans to the boards.

We agree that the lawsuit is wasting taxpayers' money and should be dropped — but only after the underlying problem is resolved. Since Fletcher will leave office in two weeks, it will be up to Gov.-elect Steve Beshear to bring the universities' governing boards into compliance with the law.

Stumbo, a Democrat, sent a letter to Fletcher in late August demanding that the governor ask three Republican trustees to resign from UK's board and that he create a Democratic majority, which Stumbo said is required by state laws mandating the makeup of the governing boards at UK and the University of Louisville be proportional to the number of registered voters in the state's two major political parties — an Aug. 28 Kernel article reported.

Currently, nine of UK's governor-appointed trustees are Republicans, and seven are Democrats, Stumbo said. However, of the Kentucky voters registered in one of the two major parties — which excludes the 6.5 percent of Kentuckians who are registered as independents or with another party — 60.8 percent are Democrats, according to a

Sept. 13 Kernel article. Stumbo told Fletcher in the original letter that because of this, the 16 governor-appointed trustees on UK's board should include 10 Democrats and six Republicans, the Aug. 28 Kernel article reported.

The state law in question, Kentucky Revised Statute 164.131, is clear in requiring that the political affiliations of the trustees reflect the affiliations of the state's registered voters. Regardless of how Fletcher interprets other parts of the law, it is clear that, unless the Kentucky General Assembly changes the law, the Board of Trustees should have a Democratic majority.

Regardless of how Fletcher interprets other parts of the law, it is clear that the Board of Trustees should have a Democratic majority.

Fletcher has said repeatedly that his appointments were made within the confines of the law, and it does not appear he intends to solve this disparity on his own.

Instead, when Beshear becomes governor Dec. 11, he should immediately begin working to balance the boards at UK and U of L. Beshear should request some trustees — three Republicans from UK and two from U of L — voluntarily resign, and he should then replace them with qualified Democrats. After that, Stumbo or his replacement, Attorney General-elect Jack Conway, should drop the suit against the governor's office.

Though filing a lawsuit may be the best course of action for the attorney general when he believes the governor is breaking the law, it is also a burden on the state taxpayers and on the court system. As soon as he takes office, Beshear should act to resolve the situation and make the lawsuit unnecessary.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Despite negative press, cameras benefit students

I would like to take this opportunity to address some of the concerns raised a number of times by the Kernel Editorial Board regarding the Johnson Center cameras that Student Government worked to install.

Throughout our Senate meeting, there was an appropriate debate regarding the matter; there was concern raised on the issue of privacy. This was the job of the senators that were elected to represent the student body, and their questions were answered accurately and in a timely manner.

Our efforts continued to be pulled through the mud the following days on these very pages. Though SG staff did not receive any direct student concerns regarding privacy issues surrounding the Johnson Center cameras, there are now signs posted by the entrance to the Johnson Center alerting students to the presence of recording material. It is also important to note that in-

stitutions around the country have similar cameras without posting warnings about their presence: Florida State, Cornell and Arizona, to name a few.

This service will provide a convenience factor to those students taking advantage of it. From their dormitories or homes, they will be able to check how busy the Johnson Center is at anytime they wish. This may prove useful as we enter into the winter season. We are glad to see this new service up and running, and I commend Director of Campus Recreation Ron Lee for his continued effort in making this a service that students can use and trust.

If you would like to take a look at the new cameras please visit the SG Web site (www.uksga.org).

Tyler Fleck
SG Deputy Chief of Staff for Constituent Services
Political science senior

UK should take down rival's flag on campus

As I drove to campus this morning, my lips, wind-burnt from four cold overtimes, stung with each sip of coffee. And then I saw something that has been bothering me all semester. The faded orange and white checkerboard flag flying atop the construction crane at the hospital work site.

A line has to be drawn. Coca-Cola would not tolerate a Pepsi flag flying

on its construction site; likewise, UK should not tolerate the flying of a Tennessee flag over its construction site. Removing the flag would not change the outcome of Saturday's game, but it might make the sting a little more bearable.

Will Adams
Law graduate student

Submissions

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

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Columnists Needed

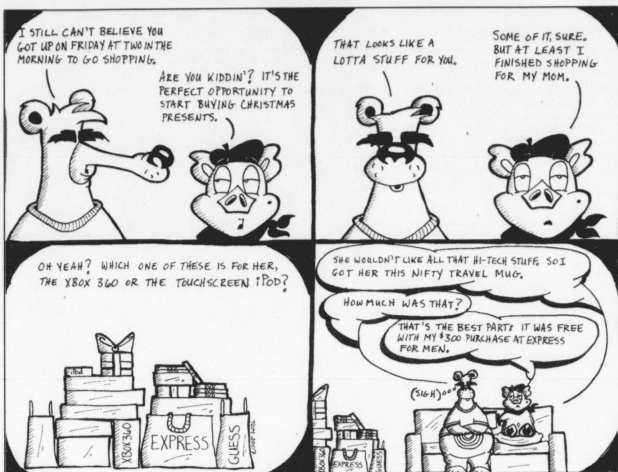
The Kernel is looking for columnists, especially those with an interest in campus and local issues, to write for the opinions page on a regular basis.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for a cartoonist to draw pieces for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Those who have an interest in campus and local issues will be given special attention.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



Tom Wilkins, Kernel cartoonist

SG works to save students money, lower cost of higher education

Hello there, Wildcats. I know, I know, my heart is hurting from that tortuous loss against Tennessee too.

But I hope all of you will join me at the Cats' bowl game over break. These seniors have portrayed four years of incredible determination toward turning our football program around, and we should all say thank you by going to the bowl game.

I am sure all of you enjoyed the extended break this year. Now that we are back in the saddle, it is time to prepare for finals and the last couple of weeks of the fall semester. Be sure to use The Study over at the Commons Complex for tutoring if you need it. This is another campus service supported by the Student Government Association; it's a great tool!

Before SGA heads off to break, we attended the city council meeting Nov. 20 to speak against the pending legislation regarding housing policies in Lexington. Everyone should be relieved to know that the proposed changes took a beating and were dropped from the table. SGA will continue to follow this issue to help resolve all student-related problems that our neighborhood and government officials may have. What a success!

SGA did hold our first Campus Safety Forum with officers from both Lexington police and UK police. It was very beneficial to those there, and we hope to hold more in the future that focus on specific subjects such as the Greek community and women's safety. More communication equals more happiness for everyone. I hope you can make it to the next event.

It's almost time to sell your old textbooks and buy new ones for the spring semester again, so I hope everyone will take a second and check out UKBookExchange.com. Students can save tons of money this semester by buying and selling their textbooks directly to other students on this Web site.

This Web site was created by UK students for UK students. The creators worked on it with one purpose in mind — solving the expensive textbook problem. The site is completely free to use. Sellers can post books on the site and set their own prices; buyers can browse the site for books they need and find significantly lower prices than those of the bookstores. Everyone wins.

The service is setup just for UK students. When creating an account, students provide their contact information, which is shared when a transaction is finalized. The two parties meet up and make the exchange. Do something smart this semester and use UKBookExchange.com to buy and sell all of your books.

SG Vice President Brittany Langdon and Chief of Staff Chris Crumrine sat down with state legislators to talk about the rising cost of textbooks. We are working to alleviate some of the burdens on the students in an effort to fight the rising cost of higher

education. It is just one of many items on our agenda at the upcoming student rally in Frankfort.

This Friday UK will be celebrating World AIDS Day, and SGA is sponsoring related events on campus. I hope many of you will come out to become more aware of the AIDS issue in the United States and around the globe. There will be free AIDS testing provided in the Student Center.

Be sure to check out the new live feed of the Johnson Center on our Web site (www.uksga.org). This is another great service for our students and such a cheap price! As it gets cold the cameras will be awfully useful, even for the Kernel editors!

A quick touch on a couple of other topics: Just this past week SGA led conversations with Interim Police Chief Maj. Joe Monroe to successfully place SafeCats under UK police. Because of this move, the Air Force ROTC will have complete funding each year and will receive new uniforms, ID badges, two-way radios, and the entire program will be improved under UK police's watch. The golf cart will be humming along soon. What a success!

Also, SGA executive members are working closely with many to help plan the first Winter K-Week. We feel that there is not enough "welcome" at UK in January, so we hope to put a decent week together. If you want to help, come on in and we'll get you in place.

Have a great week, everyone!
Nick Phelps is the president of UK Student Government. E-mail nicholasphelps@gmail.com.

Chavez claims to promote democracy but is actually a dictator in disguise

Creeping authoritarianism in Venezuela may not be sparking the kind of global outcry that has accompanied President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's naked grab for control in Pakistan, but it should.

Pro-democracy critics have a responsibility to discard double standards, raise their voices and join the Venezuelan opposition in protest. What is bad for Pakistan is bad for Venezuela.

The country's rescaltrant ruler, President Hugo Chavez, under the guise of reform, has engineered a number of constitutional changes that voters will consider next month. I would describe many of those proposals more bluntly as an attempt to excise freedoms that are guaranteed to the people of one of the region's longest-enduring democracies.

And that is a travesty. Chavez, in a transparent effort to redirect blame, accuses protesters of "fascist violence." In truth, he should look no further than a mirror to locate

the source of his country's troubles. If people were not taking to the streets in major cities across Venezuela, I would be concerned.

Consider that Chavez's so-called reforms, among other things, would allow him to run for re-election indefinitely; dismiss civil liberties during periods of emergency rule; censor the news media; and extend his control over the nation's central bank.

If those modifications would not open the door to dictatorship, I do not know what would. Those are tools that only a tyrant would favor in the interest of expanding his power. Chavez is orchestrating what some leading Venezuelans have aptly described as a virtual coup. I would like to see them take a step further and challenge him at the ballot box.

In the meantime, there will likely be more of the violence that unfolded last week, when masked gunmen opened fire on Central University of Venezuela students as they returned from a peaceful march. I side with those who suspect that Chavez's government was behind the turmoil, despite its offer to disparticipate in the election. University authorities know better than to fall for such shameful shenanigans. Once on campus, the

troops would strip the institution of its autonomy.

Indeed, the students and others who believe in democracy should repeatedly return to public protests in greater numbers than ever, pushing the government to delay or — even better — abolish the referendum in its current form.

Global leaders should do their part, as well, and let Chavez know that they understand full well his self-serving, attempted manipulation of the Venezuelan constitution. They should not restrain their criticism.

In that vein, I rather enjoyed King Juan Carlos of Spain's rebuke of Chavez at the Ibero-American summit in Santiago, Chile, a few days ago. A matter other than Chavez's domestic misdeeds was on the table, but the Venezuelan bully was running his mouth as usual, calling a former Spanish prime minister a fascist. "Why do you not shut up?" the king asked.

Indeed, the world has tired of hearing Chavez's blather and witnessing his poorly disguised wicked ambitions. The sooner Venezuelans sweep him into political obscurity and shut him up for good, the better.

John Bersia is a columnist for McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.



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An HPV awareness program
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Student Center Theatre
6:00 pm
Dr. Gregory Moore will be speaking about cervical cancer and HPV awareness among college women.

THE KERNEL GET IT DAILY

NINE BALL TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY 7PM THE CATS DEN
IN THE STUDENT CENTER

To Do List

- Go To Class
- Go To The Gym
- Study... maybe
- Check Facebook
- READ THE KERNEL

Survey: More students studying Arabic, African, Asian languages

By Lisa M. Krieger
San Jose Mercury News

College students are increasingly opting to study Middle Eastern, African and Asian languages rather than Spanish, French and German, according to a major new survey by a group that has tracked such statistics for nearly 50 years.

A study by the Modern Language Association released earlier this month, the first since 2002, offers a snapshot of student interest in languages in the fall of 2006 at all post-secondary schools in the country.

Still, Spanish is by far the most popular language studied at U.S. colleges and universities, the study found.

For reasons ranging from Sept. 11 to the Internet and the globalization of the American economy, the largest increases in interest were in Middle Eastern and African languages, where enrollments grew by 55.9 percent and in Asian and Pacific languages, which reported a 24.6 increase.

"There is a readiness on the part of many students to study what have long been considered less familiar and more difficult languages," said Karin Ryding, a member of the MLA's the association's Committee on Foreign Languages and Professor of Arabic at Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

"Americans are, above all, pragmatic language learners," said Ryding at a news conference Nov. 15. "If they see a vital need in terms of national interest or professional opportunity, they will invest the time and energy to study those languages."

The single most dramatic increase was in Arabic, with a 126.5-percent jump in enrollments between 2002 and 2006. Not only have enrollments in Arabic expanded more than two-fold, but the number of colleges and universities offering Arabic has also nearly doubled. Researchers received reports from 466 Arabic programs in 2006 vs. 264 in 2002.

Chinese and Korean enrollments climbed by 51 and 37 percent, respectively, during the four-year period. Some of these students are what researchers call "heritage learners," who seek to reconnect with their native culture

and the language of their parents and grandparents.

But almost three-quarters of all students continue to study the traditional favorites — Spanish, French and German.

Spanish remains the most taught language in the United States, outdistancing all other contenders. Enrollment in Spanish has expanded by 10.3 percent, continuing a record of uninterrupted growth begun in 1980. French remains second and German third in popularity.

But as a percentage of total language enrollments, Spanish, French, and German have lost ground in the past four decades. Spanish remains above 50 percent of total language enrollments, where it has been since 1995, having risen from 32.4 percent in 1968. French has fallen from 34.4 percent in 1968 to 13.1 percent in 2006. Over the same period, German has fallen from 19.2 percent to 6.0 percent.

Russian and Hebrew are barely holding ground. Irish enrollments decreased by 45.5 percent.

In actual enrollments, Arabic still remains relatively small — but for the first time has surpassed Ancient Greek and Biblical Hebrew.

Overall, the portion of college students studying foreign languages has increased only slightly — a trend that researchers say reflects the increasing number of competing course offerings.

In fall 2006, only 8.6 of 100 students enrolled in colleges and universities studied a modern language course.

Although the number reflects a slight increase from the 2002 figure of 8.1 — and well above the numbers seen in the 1970s, when enrollments declined — this number is still well below, almost by half, the enrollments in 1960 and 1965 of 16.1 and 16.5, respectively.

The Modern Language Association, with the support of grants from the Department of Education, has gathered and analyzed information on enrollments in languages other than English since 1958.

Founded in 1883, the association works to strengthen the study and teaching of language and literature.

White House gets its Christmas tree

By Barbara Barrett
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — It took Joe Freeman 15 minutes and two chainsaws to fell the big Fraser fir that grew on his Ashe County, N.C., farm for nearly two decades.

He planted the fir 19 years ago, before he even owned the land on which it grew. Freeman, 45, will admit that wielding his saw Friday felt a bit sentimental.

But then came Monday, when Freeman basked for hours in the glory of having the Fraser welcomed to the White House on Monday morning by first lady Laura Bush.

"We had a big time," Freeman said later in the day.

Back in August, Freeman cut down a white pine on Mistletoe Meadows Christmas Tree Farm in Laurel Springs, N.C., and saw it selected as the Grand Champion Christmas tree by the National Christmas Tree Association.

Two months later, White House staffers came to his farm to choose the official Christmas tree — one of the honors of winning the grand championship back in the summer.

The official welcome Monday was brief. At 10:17 a.m., a pair of horses clipped 50 yards up the White House's northern driveway, tugging a wooden cart with the 20-foot Christmas tree lying on its side. A Marine band played a few bars of "O Christmas Tree."

The first lady strode out into a spattering of rain, smiled at the three dozen members of the press corralled behind a



CHUCK KENNEDY | MCT

First lady Laura Bush shakes hands with Beth Walterscheid of the Christmas Tree Growers Association as she receives the 2007 White House Christmas Tree on the North Portico of the White House in Washington, yesterday. The Fraser Fir tree, from Joe Freeman and Linda Jones of Mistletoe Meadows Christmas Tree farm in Laurel Springs, North Carolina, will be set up in the Blue Room of the White House as part of official decorations for the 2007 holidays.

rope and praised the tree bundled behind her.

She thanked Freeman and his wife, Linda Jones, and a representative from the tree association.

Then she and the couple walked back in the White House. There, away from the press glare, they sipped hot cider and ate cookies and talked about the Christmas tree business.

After a lunch and private tour with the first lady, Freeman stuck around to watch

his tree raised.

Workers wrestled it off the cart, through two sets of doors and into the White House Blue Room — where it didn't fit.

Workers cut two feet off the bottom, so that the tree's top just brushed the ceiling.

"It's a perfect fit," Freeman said. "I knew it was a big tree, but just like all Christmas trees when you bring 'em inside the house, it looks larger."

France wins huge deals from China

By Tim Johnson
McClatchy Newspapers

BEIJING — French President Nicolas Sarkozy, remaining largely silent on sensitive human-rights topics, won deals from China on Monday for two nuclear reactors and 160 Airbus jetliners together worth some \$30 billion, an amount he called unprecedented.

"The total amount of these contracts has never been matched before," Sarkozy told Chinese President Hu Jintao as they met in the Great Hall of the People.

The huge sales appeared to be a reward to France for respecting Beijing's sensitivities on such matters as Tibet.

Sarkozy, unlike his German and American counterparts, hasn't received the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, whom China condemns as a separatist.

It also would boost Airbus' order book significantly, placing it well ahead of U.S. rival Boeing.

The Chinese long have used commercial-airplane orders as a political tool, giving orders to Airbus when their relations with the U.S. sour or buying Boeing planes when their relationship with Europe is rocky. They often time their orders to coincide with a visit by a U.S. president or the head of a European country.

Boeing spokesman Jim Proulx in Seattle had no direct comment on the latest Airbus order, but said Boeing continued to work with the Chinese government on future orders.

Even as the deals displayed China's growing economic brawn, a spat involving Europe's visiting trade chief underscored the complexity of Beijing's surging commercial relations with the world.

In unusually pointed remarks, European Union Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said at a forum that China must do more to protect consumers from tainted products and act quickly to halt a "tidal


wave" of counterfeit goods leaving its shores.

"Consumer safety is a zero-compromise issue," Mandelson said, referring to China's assertions that less than 1 percent of China's exports to Europe had alleged health risks. "Even 1 percent is not acceptable."

China's trade chief, Vice Premier Wu Yi, said she was "extremely dissatisfied" with Mandelson's speech, without elaborating.

As part of the nuclear deal with France's state-owned Areva, valued at \$11.9 billion, China agreed to buy two pressurized water reactors, which will be built over six years.

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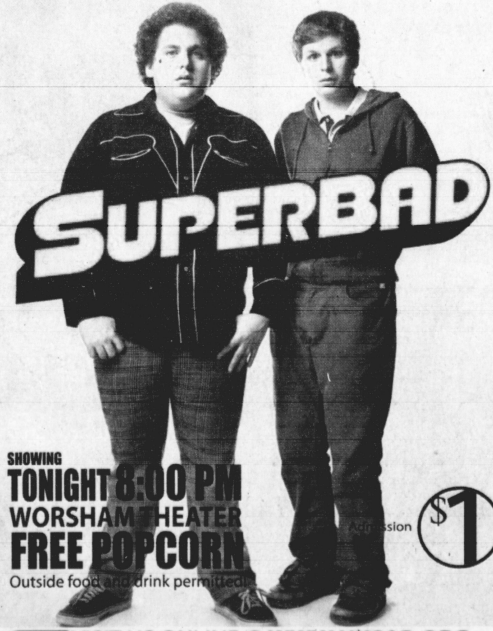
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