

THE Kentucky Kernel

Friday, March 24, 2006

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Task force prepares questions

Questions will seek faculty input on issue of racial atmosphere

By Darliah Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK's Task Force on Racial Diversity and Equality is currently reviewing a draft of a list of questions and hopes to use these to interview black faculty next month to gather information on the university's racial climate.



"The bottom issue is how does the environment feel here?" said William Turner, associate provost for multicultural affairs, vice president of university engagement and task force chairman.

Turner said the interviews would best be done before the end of the spring semester.

"I'm looking at the month of April because most people are going to be gone for the summer," Turner said.

The questions, which will be asked in one-on-one interviews with black faculty, are intended to gauge how UK is doing in terms of diversity.

One concern is how to phrase the questions for maximum effectiveness. "I think (an issue) is going to come out. I'm just not sure it's going to be because we goaded it out," said Phil Kraemer, associate provost for undergraduate education. "There may be some hesitation to respond to that opportunity (to talk) because it's not frank."

The task force is also considering looking into a cross-campus look into where black faculty are most concentrated.

"We need a picture of where UK is in terms of their faculty members," Turner said, "where people are and where people aren't."

The main goal is to hear the concerns and the issues. "I think we need to focus mostly on people's perceptions of how UK is today," said Roger Sugarman, director of Institutional Research.

Part of that will involve getting a historical look over the last 15 years to find out what UK has done in the past and how this has worked.

"I don't think institutional racism is found at a certain data point," said Russ Williams, staff representative to the Board of Trustees. "It's found over time."

He also said it's urgent to get this information so that necessary changes can be made as soon as possible.

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Jerry Ragland, center, takes questions after the Kentucky Supreme Court heard an appeal involving his son, Shane, in 2005. Shane was convicted of the 1994 murder of UK football player Trent DiGiuro, but the court overturned the conviction and ordered a new trial yesterday.

Ky. high court orders retrial for Ragland

Latest twist in 1994 murder of UK football player Trent DiGiuro

By Tim Wiseman
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Twelve years after the murder of a UK football player, and four years after a man was convicted of the crime, the case is about to start all over again.

In a 5-2 decision released yesterday, the Kentucky Supreme Court overturned the conviction of Shane Ragland for the murder of former UK offensive lineman Trent DiGiuro and granted a new trial, ruling that bullet tests used to connect Ragland to the crime were inadmissible.

The tests — called comparative lead bullet analysis — were used by the prosecution in the trial to link bullets recovered from the crime scene to ammunition found at the two homes of Ragland's divorced parents. In September 2006, the FBI, which was the only agency administering the tests, announced it would no longer do so after a National Research Council study showed the test to be inconclusive.

In addition, testimony of-

ferred by the forensic scientist who performed the tests for the prosecution in this case proved to be false.

"We conclude that the admission of the CLBA test results and the expert's opinions about those results require reversal for a new trial," Justice William Cooper wrote in the majority opinion, one of four opinions written by the court.

The case will be sent to Fayette County Circuit Court for a new trial. There is a 20-day period for attorneys to ask the court to reconsider the decision. Commonwealth Attorney Ray Larson, who represented the DiGiuro family at the original trial, has scheduled a news conference for 9:30 this morning.

It was the second time Ragland's defense had asked the court to overturn the conviction.

In November 2004, the court granted him a new trial on the grounds that a prosecutor violated his constitutional rights by commenting on Ragland's decision not to testify. But after Kentucky Attorney General Greg Stumbo petitioned the decision, the court decided to revisit it.

This time, the court was divided 3-3, with one justice abstaining, on that issue. A tie means the lower court's ruling stands, but the court still based a new trial based on the controversy surrounding the forensic test.

Ragland's attorney Guthrie True said he was "thrilled" about the ruling.

"This is just real significant development, because this so-called bullet lead test what I feel was a real lynchpin for their case."

Guthrie True
attorney for Shane Ragland
on the court's decision

See Ragland on page 2

TIMELINE | The Trent DiGiuro Case

1994	2000	2002	YESTERDAY
UK football player Trent DiGiuro is killed in a sniper-style shooting as he sits on his porch on Woodland Avenue.	Aimee Lloyd, Shane Ragland's ex-girlfriend, tells police Ragland confessed to her in 1995 that he killed DiGiuro.	Shane Ragland is convicted of the murder of DiGiuro and sentenced a month later to 30 years in prison.	The Kentucky Supreme Court orders a new trial because of a lack of reliability in a forensic test used in the case.

SG senator meets with Ky. senator

SG presidential hopeful Bates talks about funds

By Sean Rose
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Student Government Senator and presidential candidate Andy Bates spent about three hours in Frankfort yesterday discussing student issues with a senator to "foster relationships with our lawmakers."

Bates met with Sen. David E. Boswell, D-Owensboro, one of the repress

FYI
from Bates' hometown. ■ SG election meeting one-on-one with legislators was more effective in pushing student issues than other methods currently used by SG such as rallies. ■ March 29-30 See Wednesday's Kernel for complete election preview

"An annual protest in Frankfort doesn't magically produce funding," Bates said. "Personally, I think the biggest problem with securing top-20 funding is that legislators aren't thoroughly aware of the problem ... and SG hasn't done enough to show them what the problem is," referring to UK receiving less funds than requested and the rising cost of tuition.

One of the senators on Bates' ticket was in Frankfort as well. Robert Kahne, a political science and economics freshman, said what started as a lobbying session ended as a discussion with Boswell on how SG could play a role in securing top-20 funding.

"Senator Boswell was really supportive of everything we had to say," Kahne said. "It kind of turned into a question and answer session."

Bates and Kahne both said Boswell encouraged SG representatives to play a greater role state government with regard to UK.

With the only days left in the current legislative session, Kahne said there was nothing they could do to invoke change for this next year, but was optimistic about the future.

"There isn't anything we can do in this current session," Kahne said. "This really gives us footing for next year."

"That's part of our biggest mission is to be a familiar face in Frankfort," he said.

If elected, Bates said he envisioned weekly trips to Frankfort to meet with other legisla-

See Talk on page 2

Director seeking local talent for film

By Chris Collins
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Next Thursday will be a chance for many in Lexington to star in a feature film directed by an up-and-coming talent, and UK alumnus, who has worked on blockbuster films and hit TV shows.

Craig Miller plans to start filming the movie in May and will be holding auditions late next week. The auditions will be for speaking parts and extras.

The movie, entitled "Blink," will start shooting in Lexington in May and is about a group of 20-somethings who, while spending a night in a bar, realize that their life isn't what they thought it would be.

"This movie is about that quarter-life crises that has hit everyone I know. You know, people think that they're going to have 2.5 kids, drive a nice car and have a good job and it doesn't always happen that way," he said. "And although we're shooting in the south, 95 percent of the movie takes place in a bar which will

make it easier for anyone in any part of the country to relate to."

Although successful at what he does, Miller himself experienced a similar realization when he first moved to Los Angeles and wanted to hit the ground running in film and begin working right away.

"You want to get to the top of the heap as soon as possible and L.A. isn't that kind of town. I was fortunate that I began working as soon as I did," Miller said.

Miller plans on the movie being a generational film, one that hasn't been made for his particular generation. "We're the in-between generation, were too young to be Generation X and were too old for Generation Y," Miller said. "Reality Bites" was for the '80s and 'Swingers' started the whole club scene that featured a lot of swing bands. This movie will feature a lot of independent bands and will speak specifically to the our generation."

Miller grew up in Louisville and enrolled at UK in 1996. After graduating in 2000, Miller enrolled at Florida State and

FYI

- Casting call for "Blink"
- When: 8 to 11 p.m., March 30-31 for extras
- Where: Gambino's at 124 W. Maxwell St.

spent two years there learning the physical process of making films.

"I was a huge Seminoles football fan and Florida State is in the top five film schools in the country, yet I didn't see one football game because you're working twenty hours a day making films," Miller said. "At Florida State you cram four years of schooling into two."

Since graduating from Florida State Miller, has worked on TV series like "CSI: Miami" and major blockbusters like Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds," where he worked as second assistant director for the film's second unit.

"As assistant director you're making

See Film on page 2

Blink

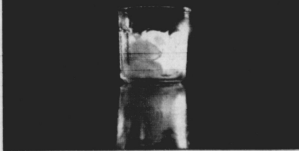


PHOTO COURTESY CRAIG MILLER

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Debate examines intelligent design

By Keith Brooks
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Is the theory of intelligent design right, or is evolution?

The audience picked sides last night in Memorial Hall last night as both theories were discussed during a debate entitled "The Scientific Status of Intelligent Design."

The event marked the second part of the "Theoretical Thursdays" series hosted by the Student Activities Board.

Buck Ryan, a journalism professor at the University of Kentucky moderated the debate, which brought a host of students, professors and members of academia interested in hearing the discussion.

William Dembski, a senior fellow of the Discovery Institute for Science and Culture was the proponent for intelligent design. Dembski, a professor of science and theology at the Southern Seminary in Louisville, said natural selection is the invisible hand that crafts well-wrought forms, but questioned the legitimacy of Darwin's legacy, using an "unsigned promissory note" as an analogy.

"The point is that natural selection is thinking ahead. It's just saying 'What will benefit me now'."

The opponent was Michael Shermer, founder of Skeptics Magazine and director of the Skeptics Society. Shermer took a light-hearted approach with the material, using several references to pop culture in his explanations.

"We're confronted with a theory that is coming up empty."

William Dembski
professor of science and theology
at Southern Seminary in Louisville, on evolution



"How does intelligent design explain vestigial structures?"

Michael Shermer
publisher of Skeptics Magazine,
defending evolution

nations.

"If you combine an atheist and a Jehovah's Witness and have them knocking at your door, you'll know nothing at all," he joked with the audience.

The definition of intelligent design is "the study of patterns and nature that are best explained as the result of intelligence," Dembski said. He said what caused the initial speculation of intelligent design is the detection of a highly complex event, contingency and specification.

"We're confronted with a theory that is coming up empty," Dembski said about evolution. "We're talking about a global disciplinary problem here."

Shermer took a different approach.

"How does (intelligent design) explain vestigial structures such as the male nipples or the human appendix?" Shermer asked the crowd. "Why the human tailbone, why the

human teeth?"

Shermer went on to talk about a major reason that explains why people cling to religion as a source for explanation, which he called, "The God of the Gaps."

"It's not that science doesn't allow supernatural explanations, it's just that there's nothing to do with them," he said.

Shermer also said intelligent design was not simply an elimination of necessity and change and that intelligent design would require a "maker" of the "maker."

"Where do you stop the causal sequence?" he asked.

Tyler Porter, a mechanical engineering junior, asked if there were more evidence for evolution than intelligent design.

"Intelligent design has no problem with evolution," said Dembski. "Evolution always works as a divide and conquer — it's always going to simplify the problem," he said.

"Michael has not referred to a particular way of how this information has evolved."

"The fact that there's questions (means) that it's a healthy science, not a bad science," Shermer responded.

Dembski went on to say intelligent design does not assume everything evolution has concluded is accurate.

"It's showing some aspects of intelligence and natural forces can work together. It seems that is what has happened in the history of life," he said.

Nick Kirby, a first-year graduate student in mathematics wondered whether or not the mechanism for implementing intelligent design existed and whether that made the theory incomplete.

"You can play with all tons of thought experiments," said Dembski. "In a sense, what intelligent design is saying is that there is an incompleteness to the physical theory." Dembski went on to say that Shermer offered a "reductionist view of nature."

"How did it do it?" Shermer asked of intelligent design's theory. "There's no answer at this moment."

"The question though, ultimately, is where does the evidence point?" Dembski said. "We're early in the game. We'll see."

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Ragland

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case." True said. "It just changed the whole complexion of the case."

"It is something that puts the case in a whole new light, one that is much more favorable to us."

DiGiuro was shot in the head and killed the night of July 17, 1994, while sitting on the porch during a party at his home on Woodland Avenue, three days before his 21st birthday.

Ragland, a UK graduate, has been serving a 30-year sentence for the murder.

Investigators waited five years for a break in the case, which came when Ragland's ex-girlfriend, Aimee Lloyd, told investigators he confessed shooting DiGiuro to her in 1995.

She said Ragland shot DiGiuro because the football player had a role in keeping Ragland out of UK's chapter

of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Ragland was arrested in July 2000 and then sentenced in April 2002, after a grand jury found him guilty of murdering DiGiuro.

This new ruling means a new trial is on the horizon, but DiGiuro's father, Mike, said he is not giving up anytime soon.

"It's not like we can stop the merry-go-round and get off," he said in a press conference yesterday. "We're committed to it."

After the court heard this appeal last November, DiGiuro told The Kernel, "Shane Ragland killed my son."

Yesterday, DiGiuro said he still feels the case against Ragland is strong one, even without the bullet tests.

"There was a lot of evidence beside that bullet evidence," he said.

"Every time I can't sleep at night, Shane Ragland wins, and I will be damned if I am going to let that happen."

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Film

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decisions that might add up to \$250,000 a day. Your job is basically to make sure all the nuts and bolts are laid out so the director can focus on shooting the film."

There are 34 speaking parts and Miller urges anyone interested to e-mail him at casting@TwoBitFilms.com with a picture or resume.

"Of course the interest will lie with theater majors, but at the end of the day we want somebody who can re-

late to the role," he said. "We don't ask people what their majors are, you don't even have to be a student at UK," Miller said.

The casting call for extras will be held from 8 to 11 p.m. March 30 and 31 at Gambino's, located at 124 W. Maxwell St. The casting call for speaking parts will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday March 31 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 1 at UK's Black Box Theater, 106 Fine Arts Building.

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CORRECTION

A story from yesterday's Kernel incorrectly listed the days for the Student Government election. The election will take place next week on Wednesday, March 29, and Thursday, March 30.

College Board admits more SAT scoring errors

By Lois Romano
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — School administrators were stunned Thursday by the revelation from the College Board that an additional 27,000 SAT tests from the October exam had not been rescanned for errors.

The announcement was the third admission in two weeks by the testing organization of potential errors and underreported scores in the college entrance exam used by thousands of schools. A spokesman for the New York-based company said that the largest error was a discrepancy of 450 points out of a potential 2,400. The total number of students who will have higher scores resubmitted is 4,411.

"It's incomprehensible to me that there have been three separate discoveries of scoring errors on the same exam," said Gary Ross, dean of admissions for Colgate University, which was informed that it had received 57 erroneous scores. The College Board reports only the scores that were erroneously lowered — not scores that were mistakenly raised.

"It's a disgrace that upon discovery of the first series of scoring errors the College Board was not able to get to the bottom of the problem," Ross said. "They owe all of us a detailed explanation of what went wrong and how they are going to avoid these kinds of mishaps in the future."

Lee Stetson, admissions dean for the University of Pennsylvania, which had 103 affected applicants, said he was "disappointed" in the way the errors were dribbled out. "It makes us very unsettled."

Jennifer Topiel, executive director of communications and public affairs at the College Board, which adminis-

ters the test, said Thursday that "nothing like this has ever happened before, and we are going to ensure this does not happen again."

"We are 106 years old and have a long history of excellence," she said.

The College Board announced Wednesday on its Web site that it will implement new policies along with its scoring subcontractor, Pearson Educational Measurement. In the future each answer sheet will be scored twice, and steps will be taken to ensure that answer sheets are protected from humidity. In addition, Booz Allen Hamilton has been hired to review scanning procedures, and will provide recommendations within 90 days.

Two weeks ago, the College Board disclosed that of the half-million students who took the October SATs, 4,000 had scores that were higher than originally reported. A week later, it reported that another 1,800 sheets had not been rescanned. And then this week, it reported that an additional 27,000 of the October tests were not rechecked, notifying schools and affected students.

"It's the latest installment of a soap opera, and it makes you wonder what's coming next," said Robert Schaeffer of FairTest, which is critical of schools' reliance on standardized testing. He said he would lobby Congress for hearings. "There's less regulation over these tests than over what you feed your pets," he said. "This demonstrates how much human error is involved in making high-stakes education decisions."

The timing is terrible, several admissions directors said. At the University of Virginia, Dean of Admissions John Blackburn found out Thursday morning that 12 more applicants had incorrect scores. So officials will pull

out their files just as they did for 66 other applicants, look at the numbers, and see if they need to reconsider. So far, he said, the news has not changed any of their admissions decisions. "SATs are just one factor we consider," he said.

Blackburn said he has never seen a problem like this, in nearly 40 years in admissions. "This group has tested millions of people... they're amazingly consistent. Every one in a while the score sheets got some humidity, rippled, so the scanner didn't pick it up."

At Georgetown University, 15,000 admissions decisions letters get mailed Friday. Officials reviewed 93 applications because of incorrect scores. One was wrong by a significant 200 points, but most were in the 10-to-30-point range, said Charles Deacon, the dean of undergraduate admissions.

"The concern many of us have is they only adjusted scores that went up — not the scores that went down. That's the most troubling part," he said, articulating a concern of many administrators that there could be students with inflated scores who got slots other applicants deserved.

The news of testing errors fueled opponents of standardized testing as some schools are re-evaluating how much weight to give the SAT.

Twenty years ago, Maine's Bates College made the SAT optional, and the results have been positive, said William Hiss, vice president for external affairs.

"First of all, our applicant pool doubled," Hiss said. "It's very simple. You can build a better class with a larger applicant pool. You end up considering a dozen different variables and get a more diverse group with intellectual breadth and varied interests."

Diversity

Continued from page 1

"For me, it would cause a real sense of urgency if we're still doing (harmful) things now that we were doing to people 15 years ago," Williams said.

The questions will also serve a dual purpose.

Talk

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tors and build relations for student issues. He also said he might reach out to form connections with the activist group Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.

Bates said this was the first step in a long process that would pay off for the

Talk

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student body.

"Knowledge is power," Bates said. "By having an increased presence in Frankfort law makers will know what students want and students will know what their lawmakers are doing."

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Talk

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TENNIS

#18 KENTUCKY
vs.
#44 MISSISSIPPI STATE

Tonight - 5 pm

Sunday
vs.
OLE MISS

1 pm

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Features

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Hasta la 'Vista,' baby

Soon, the next generation of Microsoft operating systems will be here. Called Windows Vista, Microsoft expects its new flagship product to revolutionize the operating system world the way



Roger Chui
TECH COLUMNIST

that Windows XP changed the face of personal computing. However, all is not well in the Microsoft compound in Redmond, Wash.

Windows Vista has been plagued with delays and bugs ever since its inception as "Longhorn" in 2001. Ideally, it was supposed to be an optimization of the entire Windows code base. New features were supposed to be implemented, such as an entirely new user interface, three-dimensional desktop elements, and a revolutionary file system that would run twice as fast as NTFS, the file system used by Windows XP.

However, as time progressed, Windows Longhorn took on some very unrealistic requirements — by some estimates, it would require users to have a computer anywhere from two to four

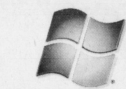
times as powerful as the average computer on the market today.

Instead of offering a complete rewrite of all the familiar Windows elements, Microsoft announced that they would be releasing a stepped-up version of Windows XP with more eye candy and web integration.

Windows Vista will feature a new desktop element from Microsoft, called Windows Sidebar. The Windows Sidebar will let users conveniently access information from various sources on the internet in one place on their screen. This is similar to Dashboard, featured in Apple's OS X Tiger, released almost one year ago.

Windows Vista will also feature enhanced built-in security, shipping with Windows Defender, which protects against spyware and provides improved "kernel-level" security, which defends against hackers and viruses at the very core of the operating system.

Vista has been out in beta since last September and that testing is now completed. Software engineers in Redmond are now working hard to release the final version of Vista. Originally rumored for release this summer in time for the back-to-school computer rush, Vista was then pushed back to the



Windows Vista

fall, in time for the holiday season. This week, Microsoft delayed Windows Vista even further, pushing back the release to the general consumer market until, at the earliest, January 2007.

Since Vista has been in planning and development for five years there are high expectations for it. However, more often than not, Windows Vista is the butt of jokes; with all the delays Longhorn and Vista have had, Windows Vista's release is frequently used as the computer geek equivalent of "when pigs fly."

Microsoft has done much to clean up its image to consumers since the days of the antitrust lawsuits by both the U.S.O government and the European Union and their new airbrushed image should show up well in the release of Windows Vista — whenever it's finally released.

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Internet and television a match made in technological nirvana

By Matea Gold
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cenk Ugur was pretty sure he had the makings of a good TV show. Every afternoon, he and fellow liberal talk-show hosts Ben Mankiewicz and Jill Pike spent three hours dishing about politics and pop culture for their irreverent Sirius Satellite Radio program, "The Young Turks." They already had an avid fan base, including listeners who urged the trio to seek a larger audience.

So last year, the Los Angeles-based commentators shot a television pilot in a rented studio and shipped it to the cable news channels, buoyed by a letter-writing campaign to network executives from some of their followers.

No one bit. So Ugur and his co-hosts took the matter into their own hands. "We thought, 'If they're not going to put us on, let's put ourselves on.'"

With the help of some investors, the Young Turks bought four professional digital cameras and rented a studio space in Los Angeles. In mid-December, they began streaming their three-hour show every weekday on their Web site, www.theyoungturks.com, billing it as the first live Internet talk show.

In the process, they've helped pioneer the rapidly developing field of online

programming — from webcasts to video podcasts and vlogs (the video version of a blog) — now delivering content that traditionally would have had to survive the television development season and pass the muster of network executives to find an audience.

Until recently, original video programming on the Internet has resembled homemade films more than mainstream television shows, appealing to niche audiences with pieces focused largely on youth culture, tech wizardry or quirky personal stories.

But this new medium is increasingly being embraced by broader constituencies as well. In the case of "The Young Turks," the program has attracted a growing number of liberals hungry for a political victory — and excited about the potential of a technology that offers a low-cost way to rally the troops. For Democrats who have long felt outflanked by the right's heavy presence on talk radio, the Internet program provides a new model of how to get their message out, unfettered.

The numbers are small — an average of 11,000 people tune in every day to the webcast of "The Young Turks," with an estimated 100,000 more listening in on the radio or through audio podcasts, according to the show. But the program has

already entered the political zeitgeist, drawing the kind of guests usually found on the broadcast networks' Sunday talk shows.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., Rep. Louise M. Slaughter, D-N.Y. and former Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., have all appeared recently, along with environmentalist Laurie David, Adam Green of MoveOn.org and a host of journalists from The New York Times, Newsweek and The Nation.

Pike, who does all the booking, says she used to have to "twist arms" to persuade politicians to come on the program. Now, congressional candidates from around the country regularly call and ask to be interviewed.

Ugur says he doesn't hold out hope that a program like "The Young Turks" could ever go head to head with a broadcast or cable show.

Rather, he says, "I think the Internet is going to be seen as a talent pool. In the past, you had to tour the country's comedy clubs or watch local news tapes. Now, you can look online to see what has already worked in a really, really tough environment. On the Internet you don't start with a lead-in of zero — flat zero." "This is wide open," Ugur says. "We can do anything we dream of."

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IN OUR OPINION

Help SAB in its search for president

Last month, this editorial board sang praises to UK's Student Activities Board for its commitment to student interests in the activities that they organize. SAB sponsors many of the student-oriented events that occur on campus, including cultural events, guest speakers and arts-related events.

The group also sponsors UK's Homecoming event every fall. Despite being one of the best-run student organizations on campus and serving as an example for others to follow, Student Activities Board could be a flagship without a captain at the helm.

With over a month having passed since applications for president were due, SAB, as it stands, does not have a president for next school year. Current President Meredith Hughes says that the fact that SAB hasn't lined up a leader for next year is nothing out of the ordinary and is confident that a president will be chosen.

She recently told The Kernel, "Based on past years, we're not behind schedule. We're going to find someone; we are making sure we have the best pool to pick from."

Today is the last day for applications to be turned in, after having been extended since the original deadline of Feb. 22. SAB leaders voiced a desire for a stronger and more broad applicant pool in their rationale for extending the application

deadline. "We didn't think we got enough applicants from those across the campus," said SAB Vice President Ashley Hayden.

"We thought it would be best to re-open to applicants to get more people to apply," she said.

For all the time, effort, interest and labor that SAB puts into putting a vast array of affordable activities for students to partake in, students who are able and willing to be passed the torch of SAB leadership owe it to the organization and their fellow students to put themselves in the running for SAB president.

SAB's hard work and dedication for UK students' activities should inspire those students to return the favor.

If SAB hopes to continue being the standard to which other UK student organizations are measured up to, they will need to devise a better method of choosing leaders in order to ensure that operations are run efficiently and in a logically sound manner.

Application forms for president are available on the SAB Web site at www.uky.edu/SAB. Students may also pick up an application in the SAB office in room 203 in the Student Center.

experience. Our students are able to get experience leading peers, developing visions, communicating with staff and other students and having fun while doing it," he said.

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UK deserves lion's share of state funding

After the Kentucky Senate put even more money toward UK's push to become a top-20 public research university in its budget bill, some other state university presidents were crying foul, according to yesterday's Lexington Herald-Leader.

Apparently, Gary Ransdell of Western Kentucky University and James Ramsey of the University of Louisville are upset that the increased funding for UK's top-20 plan happened while state legislators cut funding for projects at the other schools.

But there's one important difference between UK and those institutions: They're not under a state mandate to become a top-20 school.

House Bill 1, which passed in 1997, mandated that UK reach top-20 status by 2020 — quite a tall order for UK to fill.

The state has said that UK needs to be its flagship university, which means UK should get the priority when it comes to funding.

That doesn't mean other schools' budgets should be cut from their current levels to fund UK.

But UK should receive increases at a much faster rate, unless the General Assembly decides to drop the top-20 goal.

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KEITH BROOKS, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Staff's courage offers a good lesson for UK students

Last week I attended the forum with President Todd about the proposed differential pay raises for faculty and staff.

Chris Miles' column "As UK climbs, unequal pay raises are needed" demonstrates that he did not.

That is unfortunate because if he had perhaps written his

piece with more knowledge of the topic and less condescension towards the staff.

Miles makes much of the idea that staff members will receive raises at all. He suggests that instead of complaining, the staff should celebrate.

"The last time I was given a raise, I was ecstatic about it," he writes, before adding, "I'm pretty sure those people have no idea what they're talking about."

Miles is the one who seems not to know what he is talking about.

The 3-percent salary pool increase (which not even all staff will receive) is less than the 4-percent annual rise in the cost of living.

This means that in effect the staff will receive a pay cut next year. Their earnings will buy less than the year before. I wonder if Miles thinks the staff should be "ecstatic" about that.

Miles mischaracterizes other facts as well. "These 200 people were screaming [outside the Patterson Office Tower] as if

President Todd had actually cut their salary; not bumped it up." He neglects to mention that those 200 people grew to perhaps 600 or 700 at the forum and around 2,000 on the petition to the Board of Trustees.

By describing the staffers at the rally as "screamers," Miles tries to portray them as unreasonable. His deceptive statements suggest instead that he is the one who is unreasonable.

These factual errors might be forgiven were it not for Miles' other misconceptions and his condescending tone.

Like President Todd, who asserts that there are only "finite" financial resources available, Miles attempts to divide the staff from the faculty and students. "The employees here at UK should stop thinking about themselves and actually think about the students they serve," he writes.

In reality, however, the students, staff, and faculty face the same challenges: a Kentucky body politic that refuses to adequately fund the university and, at the same time, an administration that decides what benefits the students, faculty, and staff without genuinely consulting with them. For the administration, it is "our way or the highway."

The differential pay raise is not about "finite" resources, as President Todd has claimed. It is about priorities. Or haven't you noticed the new basketball practice arena?

President Todd and Miles apparently agree on at least one other point: that UK should operate not as a public institution but as a private one (At least this is

the implication from President Todd's Top 20 Business Plan).

Of course, the staff, like the students and faculty, probably felt until recently that they belonged to an institution of our community, not a private enterprise.

At least now they know that business means business, for both sides.

I still hope that the University of Kentucky's main mission lies in education not production.

Education means — if nothing else — critical thinking. Blindly following the administration's line, as Miles does, demonstrates exactly the opposite.

This is particularly ironic, be-

Instead of being condescending toward staff, realize students and staff face the problems at UK.

cause while Miles dreams of getting a job with his "Top 20" education, he scorns the UK staff personnel who already work, some of whom struggle to keep their families above the poverty line.

The staff's decision to speak out about the differential pay "raise" is courageous. They can teach Miles — and the rest of us — a good lesson about what it means to think for yourself.

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Hall & Oates offers insight into Bush administration's war on terror

It's been just over three years since the onset of the Iraq War, and with such a solemn anniversary one must take time to evaluate the state

and direction of the country since combat operations began.

Furthermore, it remains necessary to consider the effects of said conflict on other areas of public affairs, such as the economy, national security and public opinion.

With that in mind, millions of Americans, from bloggers to television pundits to columnists such as myself, have taken it upon themselves to contribute to the public discourse concerning the Bush administration.

It is often hard to express one's ideas in such a volatile environment, especially when you are trying to express your ideas in a way

that your opponents will be receptive to your views and at the same time being unapologetically assertive in your beliefs.

I found my voice yesterday while listening to "The Very Best of Hall & Oates." The lyrics to their hit single "Out of Touch" acted as a catalyst for this column, and I'd like to take you on the journey that they took me on, each lyric further arousing my liberal sensibilities and fanning the flames of healthy skepticism.

Shake it up is all that we know / Using the bodies up as we go / Walking up to fantasy / The shades all down aren't the colors we used to see

As an invading and occupying force in Iraq, the United States has been a success. The problem lies in the rebuilding and stabilization process — returning the country to its pre-war levels of civic operability and maintaining order throughout the country.

At 2,310 U.S. combat fatalities, numerous Iraqi civilian deaths and an

influx of refugees, we must seriously consider whether or not the human toll of furthering the mission in Iraq is worth the questionable contribution to our national security.

Reaching out for something to hold / Looking for a love where the climate is cold / Manic moves and drowsy dreams / Or living in the middle between the two extremes

The situation in Iraq has become so dire that President Bush will reach for anything to rationalize his crusade for democracy, freedom, ending terrorism, or human rights, depending on whether the moon is waxing or waning and what buzzword is popular that week.

You will often hear Bush and others bring up touching stories of Iraqi children getting prosthetic legs (actual legs blown off during Operation Iraqi Freedom a.k.a. "collateral damage") or going to their first day of school.

I'm not going to completely dismiss this sort of progress, but what Bush is trying to do is rationalize an arguably failed campaign based on national security concerns with hu-

manitarian gains.

We didn't go to war under the pretext that Iraqi children should be read Judy Blume novels; we were told that Iraq posed an immediate threat to the United States and was a guaranteed haven for terrorists. How are Americans supposed to react?

One minute, we're hunting down terrorists, the next we're rebuilding nurseries; one minute Iraqis are posing with soldiers for pictures, the next they are planting IEDs and blowing themselves up. In a land of such wild extremes, the United States is destined to struggle in attempting to embrace the roles of both peace-keeper and global vigilante.

Smoking guns hot to the touch / Would cool down if we didn't use them so much

Since October 2001, the U.S. has been hop-scotching around the Middle East — Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran in due time — using an all-out force and exacting a staggering economic toll on the country.

Coupled with tax cuts for the

rich, Bush's penchant for deficit spending threatens to pull funds away from programs such as education and public works that help enrich the lives of future generations of Americans. If Bush is willing to compromise the integrity of the American population, what's there even worth protecting?

It's one thing to mistakenly lead your country into war; it's a completely different thing to detach yourself from reality and surround yourself with "yes-men" in order to avoid the dire straits of your political trespasses.

With an ever growing number of disillusioned conservatives jumping off the Iraq War bandwagon and U.S. taxpayers becoming increasingly skeptical of the virtue of their money going towards combat and rebuilding efforts in Iraq, the American people are starting to send a clear message to President Bush:

You're out of touch / I'm out of time.

Doug Scott is a journalism senior. E-mail dscott@kernel.com

Columnists Needed

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

Columnists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in campus and local issues.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com if you are interested.

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brenton Kenkel or Assistant Opinions Editor Wes Blevins. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-MAIL opinions@kykernel.com

Note to Readers

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.

UK second baseman John Shelby, a second-team Pre-season All-American, takes his cuts during the Cats' victory over Western Kentucky earlier this season. Through Tuesday's games, Shelby is hitting .233 with three home runs and 19 RBIs this season. Against the Hilltoppers, Shelby had two hits and three RBIs.

KEITH SHARLEY / STAFF



Cats leave sweet home

By Ryan Mabry
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The UK baseball team that heads to Knoxville, Tenn. this weekend can finally look at things from a different perspective: the top of its division.

Granted, it's early, but the Cats' 2-1 conference record puts them into a four-way tie for first in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division, while their 18-4 overall record is also among the best in the conference. Meanwhile, Tennessee comes into the matchup winless in SEC play after dropping a pair of games to Mississippi State last weekend.

"Tennessee has a terrific club and they're going to want to prove something after losing two to Mississippi State last week," head coach John Cohen said. "They have some great arms. (James) Adkins is one of the best left-handers in the country and he's somebody we're going to have to deal with."

Junior second baseman John Shelby said he knew the Vols had a good staff.

"They have a big velocity guys," Shelby said. "They try to get into a rhythm, and they threw a lot of strikes last year."

Shelby, who was a second-team pre-season All-American, started slowly to begin the season but has since rebounded by hitting .333 with three home runs and 13 runs batted in over his last six games. He also managed to steal three bases and score 10 runs during that string. He said that the improvement was partially due to a videotape analysis of his swing, which revealed he was shifting his weight to his front foot too early.

"I struggled a lot early," Shelby said. "The more pitches you see, the better you're going to get."

The Cats just completed a 16-game homestand that vaulted them into their current position as the 26th ranked team in the most recent Baseball America poll. Cohen said going on the road for the first time in almost a month would not be a shock to his team.

"I think we're ready," Cohen said. "We have a lot of guys who went through the SEC last year and have that experience so they know what to expect. That's the biggest difference between our club this year and last year. We have that experience now and we're not relying on freshmen to win road games

for us in the SEC." Shelby agreed that this is not the team that posted a 7-22 SEC record last year.

"We've got a brand new team, with a whole bunch of new guys," Shelby said. "Everybody on this team wants to win, and is trying to win."

Cohen was aware that pitching would be the key in Knoxville.

"It's no secret that you are only going to go as far as your pitching takes you, and that's been pretty far for us this year," Cohen said. "Our team is very confident with everything we put on the mound."

Senior starter Aaron Tenyson (4-1, 3.22 ERA) is scheduled to take the hill for the Cats tonight against Adkins (4-2, 2.41).

Tenyson said the Vols, who went 46-21 last year and made it to the final grouping of eight teams in the College World Series, had their core back from that team.

But Tenyson was upbeat about the Cats' chances the rest of the way.

"We've got to play the rest of the games of the season," Tenyson said. "But our level of confidence is definitely going to change coming off the victories over LSU."

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Diamond a shining example of successful, small UK sports

When the buzzer sounded on UK's second-round NCAA defeat to UCConn last weekend in Philadelphia, Mitch Barnhart had to be thinking, "Thank God that's over."

Not because it had been an especially painful basketball season (they made it to the second round of the tournament, for God's sake); because now everyone throws their focus to the accomplishments made during the school year.

Of which there have been plenty in particular rise above the rest, however, because of awards garnered and remarkable turnarounds accomplished in short amounts of time.

And because of the remarkable coaching jobs the gurus have guided their rebuilding programs through. Baseball, led by third-year wundercoach John Cohen, is off to the best start in school history at 18-4 and ranked for the first time since April of 2000.

If you like offense, UK is the most exciting team in the Southeastern Conference to watch. The batty Cats lead the conference in eight of 14 offensive categories, including runs scored.

Women's basketball, led by third-year guru and SEC women's basketball Coach of

the Year Mickie DeMoss, advanced to the NCAA second round and lost a great game, to defending national runner-up Michigan State.

And volleyball, led by another SEC Coach of the Year, Craig Skinner, went from 12-18 in 2004 to 17-12 and an NCAA Tournament berth in Skinner's first year.

Barnhart deserves kudos for these three hires. He already gets the lion's share for DeMoss, so we'll let that be, but Cohen has a track record for exciting and successful baseball. He coached at Missouri, Northwestern (Ia.) State, and Florida before arriving in the Bluegrass. All three schools set records for runs scored during his tenure.

Skinner came to UK after serving an apprenticeship at Nebraska, a program that is to college volleyball what UK hoops isn't losing anyone who put in substantial minutes, and volleyball has Jeni Casper, the SEC career digs leader and two-time SEC Defensive Player of the Year, as one of three starters returning for a senior season.

Not to mention coaches who have one more year of experience, and a successful year, complete with the elevated glow of TV camera

Top Cats



Cohen

At 18-4, UK Baseball is off to its best start in the team's 102-year history.



DeMoss

UK Hoops reached the school's first NCAA Tourney in since 1999.



Skinner

UK Volleyball reached the NCAA Tournament after going 12-18 in 2004.

lights and larger attendance. Just because basketball is in a bit of a funk doesn't mean that it isn't a good time to be a UK fan.

Just pay attention to the smaller sports; the play is intense, the seating is often better and tickets are cheaper.

And, compared to the high-revenue sports, the teams are better.

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Priority Registration Begins March 27

Contact the Summer School Staff at 257-3382 or asout2@email.uky.edu

Student Development Council

SDC Members work hard and have fun!
We help raise money for UK Programs, encourage student scholarship, leadership and service activities. We also participate annually in Homecoming activities, the UK Fellows Society formal dinner/dance, and the UK Board of Trustees Golf Outing.

We are looking for dedicated new members!

If you are interested in joining a fantastic student group, fill out a Membership Application.

Application due: March 29, 2006

For an Application, visit:

www.uky.edu/StudentOrgs/SDC/membership.xhtml

Spring 2006 Membership drive for Student Development Council

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