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THE Kentucky Kernel

Thursday, February 2, 2006

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Year-long search yields new chief

By Megan Boehne
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

After more than a year without a permanent police chief, UK announced its choice yesterday.

McDonald Vick, the chief of police at North Carolina Central University, will relieve interim police chief Kevin Franklin in mid-March.

"Chief Vick has the right blend of experience and leadership to

lead this institution's safety efforts as we continue down this path," UK President Lee Todd said.

Vick led the 49-member department at NCCU for 10 years and has a bachelor's and master's degree in criminal justice. "I was looking for a campus in



Vick

my senior years that was pro-security, looking to invest in its police department and move forward to the future," Vick said of why he was interested in the position. "They have implemented the CATS program, they've put the computers in, they've reorganized the department — and this department is on the move."

The position had been vacant for more than a year after former UK Police Chief Fred Otto III re-

signed in November 2004, one month after he was reprimanded for having a UK police employee help him with coursework for his doctoral degree at Eastern Kentucky University.

Associate Vice President of Campus Services and Director of Public Safety Ken Clevidence, who oversaw the police chief search, managed the position himself for nine months before naming Franklin as the interim police

chief last July.

"Anytime you go through a transition, you have the opportunity to find the best in whatever you want to do," Todd said.

In order to find the best candidate, UK contracted Waters-Oldani to help recruit candidates. The company posted the job on its Web site and marketed the job to candi-

See Chief on page 4

"We're just four dudes with beards who f--ing love rock 'n' roll,"

Dave Condra, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Supergroup drummer



ANDREW HUGHES | STAFF

Mike Snowden picks Michael Marks' guitar during their show at Lynagh's Sunday night. The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Supergroup (L.F.U.C.S.) is a cover band that plays renditions of classic rock and TV theme songs.

Lexington's real BU-ROCK-RACY

Local rock cover band puts a new spin on familiar tunes and familiar government body

By Nathan Thatcher
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Look, up on the stage! It's dirty word! It's a local governing council! No, it's the L.F.U.C.S., the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Supergroup, and if you've turned on a radio or television anytime in the last 30 years, chances are

you probably already love their music.

Members of the L.F.U.C.S. include Mike Snowden (guitar, vocals), Michael Marks (guitar, vocals), Aaron Lasley (bass) and Dave Condra (drums, vocals), and together they make up the most original unoriginal cover band in Lex-

ington. They've been thrilling Lexington crowds with their own lively renditions of time-tested classic rock and TV anthems since their inception, and show no signs of stopping.

"With us, you know we are going to play, at least what we

See Rock on page 5

Roll Call:

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Supergroup

Mike Snowden (guitar, vocals)

Michael Marks (guitar, vocals)

Aaron Lasley (bass)

Dave Condra (drums, vocals)

Catch them next:

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Where: The Dome, 156 W. Main St.

How much: Tickets cost \$3.

To drop a song request for the band, visit www.myspace.com/theluccs.

Campus e-mail lockout continues

UK can help some set up temporary accounts to get "critical" mail

By Tim Wiseman
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

After three days of Internet headaches, UK continues to work to reopen its U-Connect System and help some users obtain "critical" e-mail.

Many of the 50,000 accounts in the U-Connect System — the school's online system for e-mail — began experiencing problems Monday afternoon, and as of last night, many users were still unable to log in.

UK has worked closely with software company Novell to find the glitch in the password authentication process, and some progress has been made, said Doyle Friskney, UK's chief technology officer.

"We've increased the priority, and we're just going to continue to focus on it," he said.

UK has restored access to some systems that use the U-Connect ID and password, such as wireless access, SWEB and student lockers, he said.

For those in a "critical situation," Friskney said UK could create temporary accounts so they can see their mail. To request such an account, call the UK Customer Service Center at 257-1300.

Since the problem lies in the log-in process, users' mail is safe — they just cannot get to it.

"We've got some corruption," Friskney told *The Kernel* Tuesday. "There is something inside the directory that is not correct. We just have to identify and correct it."

The three-day wait, thought, has some growing increasingly frustrated.

"I've been trying to check it for three days, and it doesn't work," said Alex Morris, a classics sophomore. "None of my messages get to me. Teachers complain that they can't contact us, and we can't contact them."

Email twiseman@kykernel.com
Chris Miles contributed to this report.

Lauded UK history professor dead at 64

By Darliah Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Most people describe UK Professor Lance Banning as a soft-spoken person, a quiet student of history.

But what Banning wasn't saying, he was writing, and his words nearly earned him a Pulitzer Prize on two occasions.

Banning, a professor of history at UK since 1973, died of a lung illness Tuesday at UK Chandler Medical Center. He was 64. He leaves behind his wife, Lana, and his son, Clinton. He is also survived by his mother, Marie Gilbert Banning and his brother Larry Banning, who both live

See Banning on page 4

Newsroom: 257-1915

Cats' 3-point barrage buries Bulldogs

By Josh Sullivan
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

STARKVILLE, Miss. — The offensive oasis the UK men's basketball team seemed to find against Arkansas may not have been a mirage — and a UK fan may deserve some of the credit.

The Wildcats broke from their traditional practice of a simple shoot-around moments before tip-off last

night in Starkville and opted to run fast-paced four-on-four drills instead, an idea head coach Tubby Smith said came from a listener of his weekly radio show who phoned in the suggestion.

Whatever the cause, three days after putting the Razorbacks away with their highest-scoring half of the season, the Cats rode a Patrick Sparks-led

See Cats on page 3



KEITH SHAWLEY | STAFF

UK senior guard Patrick Sparks is fouled by Mississippi State forward Charles Rhodes during the first half of the Cats' 81-66 win in Starkville, Miss. Sparks led the Cats with a season-high 25 points.

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Cats sweep double dip to open season

By Matt McGuire
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The UK men's tennis team lived up to its No. 19 national ranking yesterday by beating Austin Peay and Butler in a dominant fashion.

First on the menu for the Cats was an afternoon match-up with Austin Peay, and despite having a young lineup, the Cats won easily 6-1.

UK then followed by giving a similar performance with its more experienced lineup in defeating Butler 4-1.

"I think everyone did well," said freshman Bruno Agostinelli, UK's top ranked player. "The young guys pulled through."

After dropping a point early on to Austin Peay in the doubles contest, the Cats took control by winning their remaining singles matches. The slow start in doubles against Austin Peay gave the Cats the motivation they needed to finish strong.

"As a team, we got pumped up," Agostinelli said.

The Cats kept their intensity level high against Butler later in the day. In the second half of the double-header, UK pulled out another strong performance, winning the doubles point and all but one of the singles.

"We didn't give them any breathing room," senior Nate Emge said of the team's performance against the Bulldogs. "This morning we seemed a little slow. But then things picked up."

Emge's singles win sealed UK's win against Butler. After playing a tight match, he punctuated his victory with a yell of triumph as he was finally able to pull out a winning



BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF
Senior Alex Hume returns a serve last night at the Hillary Boone Tennis Center. Hume won the match 6-2, 6-1 over an opponent from Butler.

tie-breaker in the second set and seal the deal.

Playing in Florida last week, the Cats had a similar performance, playing in the South Florida Invitational and defeating both South Florida and Florida A&M.

"We got some practice and rest in Florida before this match," Emge said.

"This one gets the fight circulating in the blood."

The Cats said that yesterday's performance will give them confidence to play No. 61 Ohio State on Sunday.

"This was a good chance to get an early win that'll help us later in the year," said senior Alex Hume, who is ranked No.

61 nationally. "It's definitely what we needed to do to prepare us for OSU."

Hume settled in quickly in his opening doubles match against Butler.

"I came out a little nervous, a little tight," Hume said. "Once I got up a few breaks, I just found my rhythm and found my shot."

The Cats feel they are in good position to beat a talented OSU team on Sunday.

"We're working hard and (will be) ready for OSU," Agostinelli said. "We need to keep it together and we'll be fine."

E-mail: sports@kykernel.com

CHRIS MILES CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.

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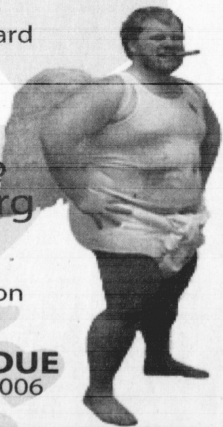
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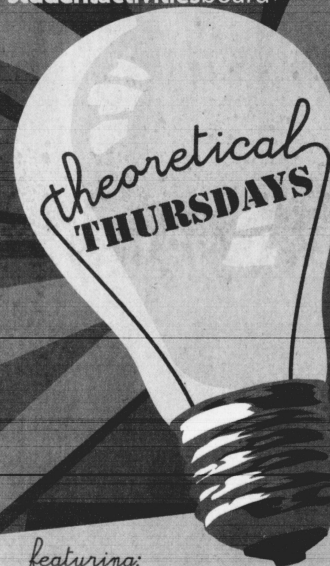
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WHAT'S THE DEAL? | Demystifying campus trends

Kentucky 'MythBusters'

I remember when I first enrolled at UK, I had only done so because rumor had it that Britney Spears had done the same. Thinking back, had that little myth rung true, I maybe could have instead been that Kevin Federline guy who milked his way into fame and fortune by marrying the gazillion-dollar pop singer and is now seen in tabloids all over the world. Oh well, maybe next life.



Kenny Moyer
KERNEL COLUMNIST

Of all the things you hear nowadays, how many would you think to be true? We live in a world made up of rumors, legends, fables, and myths, all of which have the potential to change our lives, based on our belief of the fact or fiction.

This campus is considerably a miniature version of this story-told world. Much like the "Britney Spears is coming to UK" myth, there have been plenty of folktales carried around locally that have fooled the minds of just about all of us.

There's something about a myth or legend that really intrigues me and spurs me to want to find out the truth or at least the roots behind the matter. Even more so than me, there are others out there who actually make a living by finding the truth behind some of today's most complex myths.

The Discovery Channel's "MythBusters" is a show dedicated to doing just that. In a recent episode, show hosts Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman explore science to see if the Five-Second Rule should truly apply

when you drop your food on the ground and attempt to pick it up to eat before any germs can affect it. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but based on their findings, fiction does exist here.

Now, I might not be a rocket scientist or have a credible background in biotechnology, but I do have a pen and paper. Let me take my own quick stab at a campus myth and maybe by the end we will all be one step closer to either the truth or just flat-out passing along some good gossip.

Maybe you've never heard it, but the most popular of these myths circulating UK is that the William T. Young Library is sinking. That's right, sinking. Much like La Torre di Pisa, better known as the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which was built perpendicular to the ground in 1173 A.D., but up until its last standing moment in 2000 sat at a 5.5 percent inclination due to a weak underlying ground.

Storytellers suggest the Young Library is on a similar course of movement, but at a much faster pace. Legend has it that the library was built on top of a sinkhole, causing it to sink approximately one-sixteenth of an inch closer to Hell every year. A similar version of the myth details how the engineers who constructed the library miscalculated its total weight by not factoring in the weight of all the books that were to be stored inside.

With more than approximately 1.2 million of these never-read tomes located around the shelves (yes, there are books there), and a real total weight that would crush even Chuck Norris, the library will eventually become unstable and plummet closer and closer to the Earth's core. Can this possibly be true?

History junior Preston Worley suggests that this myth is impossible to believe.

"I have heard that myth, and there is no way the University could have mismanaged a project of that magnitude," he said. "The library has been the centerpiece for this campus since its inception in 1898, and it will continue to stand that way even after our grandchildren's grandchildren graduate from here."

Bruno Pfister, an architect with Kallmann McKinnell & Wood Architects, Inc. of Boston, took part in the \$30 million project and stated the library was engineered to the exact specifications of the land. Although it was confirmed that a sinkhole does exist below the foundation of the library, a technical consultant was brought in to calculate the conditions of the soil and offer permission to build. Pfister also said the weight of the books was programmed into these calculations and measured for both regular and compact shelving.

Being from an architecture firm with a long track record of engineering, places such as Ohio State's Max M. Fisher College of Business and expanding Yale's Sterling School of Law (to name a couple), I have to stick by their combined brainpower, and suggest we are being fooled by fiction. However, you never know. Only time will tell.

You can't always believe what you hear. The art of storytelling is what gives all of us inspiration and/or fear of uncertainty. But remember, the next time you come across some good gossip, just think — it could be fact or fiction.

E-mail

kmoyer@kykernel.com

Rock

Continued from page 1

consider to be, the best rock 'n' roll set ever compiled, each and every night," Lasley said. David Bowie, Ted Nugent, DEVO and ZZ Top are just a sampling of their large (and still growing) repertoire of songs.

"I think it's cool because we're younger people playing songs that have probably been covered before. We kind of gravitate toward hard rock, but we play stuff from all across the board," Marcks said.

And here's the clever bit — if there's a song or anthem you'd like to hear them play, they will take your requests at their Web site. So, with a little planning, you can go see the L.U.C.S. confident that you'll find something to enjoy. It's bullet-proof!

"Our name came from Lexington, like Boston or Chicago, but much more funny," Condra said. "We were going to name ourselves 'The UK Wildcats,' but that probably wouldn't have gone over too well."

The L.U.C.S. are fanatical, bloodthirsty basketball fans who deeply aspire to play Guns N' Roses' "Welcome To The Jungle" when the Wildcats' starting lineup is announced, and the UK Fight Song — "On, On U of K" — during halftime.

"We will be playing the UK Fight Song on the bed of a tobacco wagon riding through town if UK goes to the Final Four this season," Lasley said.

The band works hard to accommodate its audiences, and have a universal, nostalgic appeal just about anywhere they might go. The set lists intended to facilitate drunken sing-alongs and to put as many fists into the air as humanly possible.

"When we first got together, I wanted to play a lot of obscure songs that I thought



ANDREW HUGHES | STAFF
Drummer Dave Condra brings the noise at the L.U.C.S. show at Utopia's, located at the corner of Euclid and Woodland avenues, Sunday night.

were really cool, but we came to learn that you've got to play stuff that other people know, otherwise they're not having any fun. We have to know it, and are we going to like to do it?" Condra said.

"We just like to have a lot of fun and keep it light. But I think we work really hard to make it fun," Snowden said.

The band spends a lot of time practicing, and which is evident in the precision and quality of their live performances.

"In practice, we're very serious, but when we play live, it's all about having a good time, and trying to force everyone else to have a good time," Marcks said.

"It seems like a lot of cover bands don't play TV theme songs, and that's our quirk. We get to be funny and have fun. We all grew up in the '80s and of course we

hearken back to the classics of the '70s, plenty of songs from before we were born. I'm kind of a child of the '70s who grew up in the '80s," Condra said.

"I think our generation watched a lot of TV so it kind of calls out to them. I remember that 'Mr. Rogers Neighborhood' was definitely my first experience with jazz music, and my first funk experience was with 'Night Court,'" Marcks said.

In short, the L.U.C.S. are a sonically based time capsule wherein all the glowing gems of rock 'n' roll and pop culture are lovingly stored. It's entertainment that you can count on, as you'll be going "Oh, yeah, that song!" through the entire performance.

"We're just four dudes with beads, who f---ing love rock 'n' roll," Condra said.

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IN OUR OPINION

Graduation contracts shouldn't be a secret

In fall semester 2004, UK proudly trumpeted the introduction of a graduation contract plan — and rightfully so, for it was an accomplishment produced by an active group of students working with university administration to make life easier for students.

A mere three full semesters later, however, those loud, proud notes haven't turned sharp or flat. Instead, they've simply been muted altogether — for reasons this editorial board cannot understand.

The program is designed to ensure a diploma in four years, provided that students in one of 14 participating majors follow a curriculum map, which specifically prescribes courses for each semester. If a prescribed class isn't available and the student has done everything else properly, UK promises to pay all tuition and fees associated with taking that class during a later semester at UK.

Why the program hasn't had an overwhelming amount of takers — and why UK seems to be quitting on it so soon — are two questions that are both puzzling and disconcerting.

The program's advantages on both sides are clear. For students, this program ensures prompt graduation and at the same time saves them money by preventing them from paying for extra credit hours or even entire semesters. For UK, getting a significant number of students on this system would definitely have a positive effect on the six-year graduation rate, one of several figures often used to measure progress against our benchmarks in the push to become a top-20 public institution by the year 2020.

In 2004, UK aggressively marketed the program and didn't get the response it was looking for. Out of about 1,000 eligible freshmen in the participating majors, only 150 signed up, said Richard Greissman, associate provost for program support.

"(The graduation contract) didn't mean anything to them," said Cindy Hien, director of advising for the College of Arts and Sciences. But that's absolutely not a reason for UK to pull the advertising plug so soon. This is, after all, a triennial program scheduled to last three years. That means the program will end after the 2006-07 school year.

But after the 2004-05 school year, UK's administration changed

course — at least, it claimed the best shot "at reaching a student was through his or her adviser," Greissman said.

The problem is, it seems that wasn't properly communicated. "We've heard nothing at all about the graduation contract since the 2004-05 academic year ended," Cathy Hunt, an adviser in the College of Communications, told The Kernel. "Nothing has happened at all."

All that's left, then, are the students, whom Greissman expects to "take the lead in advertising the program to freshmen." Yes, it would be nice to see an organization like Student Government to play a role in promoting this advantageous program, but all UK's stance really does is pass the buck.

"As the program becomes more familiar to students our approach to advertising can change, but we always want to be sure that all students continue to receive excellent advising on this and other tools for planning their progress towards graduation," said acting provost Scott Smith in an e-mail to The Kernel.

But we don't see how silence is "excellent advising." Rather, it would be best to fully inform students of their options. Incoming freshmen are often overwhelmed with information and perhaps don't understand how difficult it is to graduate in four years; they can't be expected to seek out a graduation contract on their own or to hear about it from their friends.

Maybe students here (for inexcusable reasons) don't want the help of a graduation contract. That's fine — but let's see this pilot program to completion before making that determination.

UK must give this program time to develop — or at least put a whole-hearted effort into it and see this three-year pilot program through to its end. And it's quite obvious that advisers play a critical role in presenting this program to students — after all, UK pays them to work with students to help them set their semester schedules and try to keep them on track to graduation.

It's clear that UK must re-involve advisers in the process and let this test drive run its full course before jumping to conclusions. Otherwise, UK will do a gross disservice to what can be a very beneficial service to all parties.



CHRIS STEWART, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Indoctrination? More like bad teaching

They're recording everything they hear, desperately hoping to find something that will confirm their suspicions.

Their operatives are paid handsomely for providing the data. They claim to be seeking justice, but their motivations are notably political.

But they're not federal spies — they're conservative students at the University of California-Los Angeles who are fighting what they perceive as liberal bias and "indoctrination" in the classroom.

Last month, a conservative group called the Bruin Alumni Association was found offering students \$100 for recordings of lectures by certain professors who have participated in left-leaning activism or who have published works from a liberal point of view. After national press outlets publicized this dubious ethical offer, Bruin reverted to a volunteer-only policy.

Their actions are typical of a growing conservative movement on college campuses, spearheaded by David Horowitz's Students for Academic Freedom. Though UK has yet to be targeted by such groups, which focus mainly on Ivy League and other high-profile schools, you can bet they'll be here when we hit top-20 status.

It's certainly humorous to hear the same people who have been up in arms since the 1960s about campus restrictions on racist and misogynist speech clamoring for restrictions on leftist speech by professors. How easy it is to say people who are offended should take it in stride until you're on the other side of the coin.

Leaving ideological hypocrisy

aside, however, there is a legitimate question at stake here: To what extent is it appropriate for professors to discuss their own political views in the classroom?

Obviously, professors shouldn't grade students based on their political views. But how often does that even happen? My experience may be unrepresentative, but in my time at UK, I've never had an assignment that entailed expressing personal opinions. In fact, most of the time, my professors have insisted that students stick to the analytical methods taught in the class and leave personal opinions behind, even on charged issues like U.S. policy toward China or the existence of God.

So if students are being graded on their personal views, the problem is bad pedagogy, not bias. Anyone can rant about his or her opinions — that's what I do in this space every week — but by no means should that count as academic work. I suspect, however, that most college professors are aware of this basic fact (and don't want to read dozens of papers that amount to amateur op-ed columns), which is why claims of being graded based on opinions strike me as dubious at best.

Perhaps more interesting are the complaints of "indoctrination" voiced by Bruin and others. When professors speak openly of their viewpoints in class, according to these groups, they are turning students against America (or Israel, or Christianity, or some other entity of which criticism is apparently indefensible) while unfairly excluding contrary opinions.

Such accusations of indoctrination necessarily assume students are like sheep who unquestioningly accept whatever professors say as truth. But we don't do that — or at least, we shouldn't. Whether or not a professor openly spouts off about politics in class, his or her theoretical, ideological and peda-

gogical biases will inevitably affect the selection and presentation of course material. And although professors should be open about those biases, we should know to approach what they present with a healthy skepticism.

I am reminded of my (terribly nerdy) high school calculus class. Whenever the teacher would ask us to take a theorem or corollary on faith for the sake of saving time, someone would inevitably shout, "Prove it!" In the end, we would accept what she said, while realizing that the only way to be certain was through independent verification.

I tend to think that college students toward professors (though perhaps not to the extent of heckling them). We trust them, but we know they're human and liable to err — or even distort. Those who fear that we're being indoctrinated must think we're children who see professors as the supreme arbiters of knowledge, rather than as fallible beings. Assuming that we're mature adults, there's no need to worry about indoctrination.

That's not to say that ranting about politics in classes is good pedagogy or that complaints about some of the more extreme cases aren't merited. But calling something indoctrination when it's really just bad teaching inappropriately raises the stakes. "Indoctrination on campuses" sounds like a platform plank in Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution; "bad teaching on campuses" is old news for anyone who's ever sat in a 300-person lecture hall.

So instead of summing up righteous indignation and going on tape-recorded witch hunts, maybe those who fear so-called indoctrination should do what the rest of us do — fill in a "I" on that class evaluation form.

Brenton Kenkel is a philosophy and political science sophomore. E-mail: bkenkel@kykernel.com.

Get financial aid help before it's too late

In December, the U.S. Senate decided to cut \$12.7 billion in student aid. The budget bill, which passed by a single vote, would also increase interest rates on student loans.

In short, this is more bad news for college students struggling to get by.

The bill must be voted on by the House and would not take effect until the summer, but students should avoid the temptation to fall victim to their favorite sin — procrastination.

Now is the time to speak with financial aid officers and advisers about the possible effects of this legislation.

The bill would fix the interest rate on student and parent loans at 6.8 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively. Currently, those rates are variable. Loan limits would also increase for students, from \$2,625 to \$3,500 for first-year loans and from \$3,500 to \$4,500 for second-year loans.

The bill has some silver lining — it would make college juniors and seniors who study engineer-

ing, math, science and some foreign languages eligible for new grants.

Still, we hope this bill does not become law, because it saddles students with an even greater burden. Lawmakers should make college available for more students, rather than turning more and more of them away.

Ultimately, however, this legislation could change financial planning, and that means students should seek help now instead of waiting for the bills to come in.

Help on the Web

- Help at UK: www.uky.edu/FinancialAid
- Scholarship info: www.uky.edu/FinancialAid/fa_programs/scholarship_information.html
- Work study info: www.uky.edu/FinancialAid/fa_programs/federal_work_study.html
- Free Application for Student Aid is available at www.fafsa.edu.gov
- Budget and loan calculators: www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DirectLoan/calculator.html

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kernel got voting issues wrong

Just as The Kernel has decided to view my comments at a recent Student Government Operations and Evaluations Meeting as "almost comical," I am "rolling head over heels in laughter" at our student newspaper's continued desire to take quotes out of context. Failing to note my comment that we need to work to ensure that all students who choose to vote get the opportunity to do so might seem like "irresponsible journalism" to some, but with our laugh track of a student newspaper, I find it to be "gut-busting, laugh out loud riot."

Sarcasm aside, I am utterly disgusted with the complete lack of respect for those who actually work to make change on this campus. In a recent editorial, The Kernel claimed that SG officials basically whine about the unfair attacks of the student newspaper. Questioning elected officials is the birthright of every American; however, misquoting, misleading and in general failing to present the full context of discussion and debate is just as much of a poison to the democratic process as controversial elections.

Subtracting polling locations from such places as the Agriculture or Business College or Graduate schools isn't "inconveniencing a few dozen students so that it is easier for hundreds more to vote," it's disenfranchising voters, plain and simple. The fact is, we can add polls to the White Hall Classroom Building and other high-turnout locations without disenfranchising other voters.

If the editorial board of this newspaper wants to truly have informed voters on election day, I suggest that it quit sitting on its high horse and actually show up to a Senate meeting rather than misquoting senators and misleading the student body. In my years of involvement in SG, not once have I seen a member of the editorial board show up at one of our

meetings. It's one thing to preach accountability; it's another to act on it.

BENJAMIN CARTER

Operations and Evaluations Chairman, SG Senate

Pursue real benefits, not coal

I find it difficult to imagine that a bright person such as Cody Belcher was not aware of how shortsighted and ad hoc was his argument for the production of coal in his Jan. 31 letter to the editor. The only "benefit" which he attributes to the practice is nothing more than monetary gain — namely in the form of job and tax revenue generation.

In truth, as technological advances allow for increased mechanization and automation of coal mining, jobs are effectively being cut as machines take over a significant portion of the labor. As technology progresses, presumably the slashing of jobs will also continue.

Furthermore, any jobs and tax revenues produced by the coal industry could be sufficiently generated by a more sustainable form of energy production. The environmental degradation of the mining, refining and burning of coal is scathingly apparent, and the continuation of such practices propagates a lack of respect and concern for the earth.

If the desire for a healthy appreciation and concern for the environment is not reason enough to reform our destructive practices, consider where members of the human race will be if we continue to carelessly exploit the finite natural resources of our planet for the sake of such shallow endeavors as monetary gain.

LAUREN MURRELL

philosophy and political science senior

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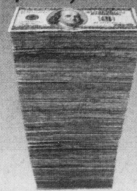
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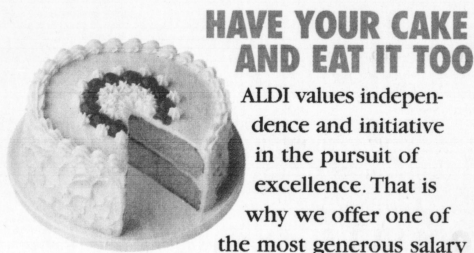
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