

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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Alerts delayed for several hours after shots fired

By Alice Haymond
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Between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m. yesterday, people on campus woke up to messages from the UK Alert system about a shooting at Greg Page Apartments that happened hours earlier.

UK Police received a report of the incident at 7:37 p.m. Wednesday. The Office of Emergency Management sent its first alerts at 12:34 a.m.

When police arrived at the scene, they received conflicting accounts of what happened, said UK spokesman Jay Blanton. That was the first of several factors delaying the alert message to the campus community, he said.

It was reported that three men and a woman went up to the apartment door

of the woman's ex-boyfriend, said Maj. Joe Monroe, UK's interim police chief. The ex-boyfriend and ex-girlfriend had an argument about 30 minutes before that, Monroe said.

The ex-boyfriend shut his apartment door when one of the males with the woman revealed a handgun. Witnesses heard two shots fired, but no one was hurt. The occupant of the apartment and the suspects are students at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, and one of the suspects, a juvenile, was identified last night, Monroe said.

It was not until about 9 p.m. that police had confirmed that shots were fired during a fight involving several people, Blanton said. At that point, they notified UK's Office of Emergency Management, which sends out the alerts.

The office's director, Christy Giles, drafted a message with UK Police to send out through UK Alert, complete with full descriptions of the suspects, Blanton said.

"Had this been a situation where there was an active shooter, we would have had the message out in a few minutes," he said.

But because it was an isolated incident, Giles and the police took time to give a more complete account, he said. Ronald Stephens, the executive director of the National School Safety Center, said the first step in handling an emergency is always verification before notification, but sometimes administrators should consider the value of immediate notification.

"To wake people up at four in the morning, that doesn't engender a lot of

good will," he said. "You do want to send out warnings, but is it a crisis notification, or just some good information? If it's just information, it's probably not all that critical, and you can share that information at an appropriate time."

Alerts about the tornado warning Wednesday morning reached about 4,000 students within 30 minutes from when the warning was issued. But facts about incidents involving people, like the shots at Greg Page, take longer to confirm than weather emergencies, said Ron Garrison, who provides training and consultation on school safety.

Delays in emergency notification usually improve with time, he said. Since UK launched UK Alert Jan. 14, he said the response seemed very smooth to him.

"Those are the real world dilemmas that you're always going to face," said Garrison, the school safety consultant and litigation support specialist at Garrison Associates in California. "And yes, safety is sometimes inconvenient; I mean, look what we go through at airports — if that's not inconvenient what is?"

Although the shots at Greg Page did not pose an imminent threat, it was still something that people on campus should know about, Giles said.

"Because there were shots fired, obviously that warranted an alert to the campus community," Giles said. "Within a couple of hours of me getting the information, the alerts were going out."

The initial alert reached about

See Alert on page 6

Solar house team calls for bright ideas

By Jill Laster
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You don't need to be an architect or an engineer to work toward a greener future — you just need ideas.

Now through Feb. 18, UK's Smart Blues House project will be accepting ideas for its entry in a national competition to build an attractive and energy-efficient solar house.

"What we're hoping is that (the ideas) span the spectrum," said Gregory Luhan, an associate architecture professor who is working with the project. "I'm expecting my 5-year-old daughter to submit a drawing."

Getting input is the first step of UK's preparation to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy 2009 Solar Decathlon, a competition in which 20 teams design, build and operate a house completely powered on solar energy. The teams will participate in a weeklong competition and exhibition in Washington, D.C., in October 2009.

Suggestions were already coming in from across campus at the kickoff of the project's idea-gathering phase yesterday, Luhan said.

"It really shouldn't be designers on one side and engineers on the other and everyone else somewhere in the middle," Luhan said. "We're looking for collaboration."

Design is the first phase in a program that will take about 18 months to complete. The design is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2008, and the house is slated to be built by the end of the Spring 2009 semester.

The College of Design currently has classes focused specifically around sustainable architecture, and others incorporate sustainable architecture into their programs.

"I just think it's the direction we have to go," said Jacinda Haynes, an architecture sophomore in a studio class focused on sustainable design. "If you don't think of green architecture as a way of life, a lifestyle, it's all for nothing."

A class in the College of Design is also focused on creating, designing and building the solar-powered house for the 2009 Solar Decathlon.

"I feel, as I think other people should feel, a sense of responsibility not just for my immediate community but for the global community as well," said James Crowley, an architecture graduate student in the class.

Ideas for the project can be on a specific field, or they can be general suggestions, Luhan said. One goal, he said, is to get the same sense of place he felt when he moved here from New York.

"I wanted to discover Kentucky, so I went out and drove in my Jeep and I found houses, buildings, architecture," Luhan said. "With the Solar Decathlon, we have the opportunity to do that and bring our ideas to the world."

People interested in the Solar Decathlon can visit the program's Web site (www.uky.edu/solarhouse/) to find out about the project and how to participate.

Student drops out of city council race

STAFF REPORT

Daniel Burton, a UK student who is running for the 3rd District seat on the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, plans to resign from the race.

"There have been some mounting concerns with my family in the past weeks, and I want to take time to be there for them," Burton told the Kernel yesterday. "I have a niece on the other and other health problems in my immediate family, and I need to focus on them."

Burton, a secondary education sophomore, said he will withdraw from the race as early as tomorrow.

"I think this is a good year for change," Burton said. "It just might not be a good year for me."

Burton is still looking for a candidate to support in the 3rd District, which includes UK, but said he plans to remain active in the election and continue spreading information on campus.

He also said he plans to run for a senator-at-large position in the Student Government elections.

Did you use to live in Boyd or Jewell halls?

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Above: Cherry Darling, left, leads the pack during practice for the Rollergirls of Central Kentucky. Outside the rink, Darling is known as Andrea Blair. Below: Skaters line up at the starting line for a scrimmage during practice at Champ's Rollerdom.



This is how they ROLL

By Bryan Kennedy
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"... When the girls step on the rink, they all have nicknames that represent their play."

— "Cherry Darling"
Rollergirls team member

The Rollergirls of Central Kentucky entered Champ's Skate Center and left their names at the door.

In these weekly practices, the neighborly Ms. Smiths and Joneses of the world transform into Rambos and O'Dooms, their skater names and the only titles they answer to while in competition.

With their names, wheels, kneepads and helmets, the Rollergirls are ready to play.

Roller derby has been compared to wrestling. The fierce competitors, though, are often different in their lives out of the rink.

"We have teachers, mothers, tattoo artists and even businesswomen out there," said Cherry Darling, one of the team's members who is known as Andrea Blair outside the rink. "But when the girls step on the rink, they all have nicknames or alter egos that represent their play."

The object of the game is simple — get the jammer, the designated scoring skater, to score by lapping the opposing team. But the way to do it is a little more complicated.

At the sound of the whistle, a line of blockers take off for each team. Shortly after, on the referee's second whistle, two jammers take off.

The blockers pave the way for their jammer to successfully make it through the crowd of skaters and complete one lap for the point.

This may sound easy, but a roller derby is not a walk in the park — it's a high-contact sport.

The two groups of blockers are allowed to use their bodies to stop the opposing blockers and jammer from getting ahead. There are hard hits and even harder spills on the skating floor.

The popularity of roller derby reached its peak in the 1970s. Now the once-declining sport has come back.

See Derby on page 3

Students join program hoping to be 'biggest loser'

By Faith Hufford
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College can be a time of stress and greasy food, but University Health Services is kicking off February with a pilot program aimed at helping students on campus deal with the pitfalls of college life and the state's high rate of obesity.

Wildcat Fit Camp is a trial program for students who live on campus who have a body mass index of 30 or greater. Program coordinators hope to bring awareness to health risks that come with being overweight and help students make lifestyle changes, said Fadyia Mohammad, a health education specialist for University Health Services and a co-designer of the program.

"We want to teach them to be healthy and know they are at risk," Mohammad said.

The program, a collaborative effort of University Health Services, the Office of Residence

Life and the Underground Fitness Center, was inspired by NBC's "The Biggest Loser," where contestants participate in a series of challenges to help them lose weight.

The six students who started the program Feb. 1, are divided into two teams of three and will compete against each other during the 12-week program, which will include physical and educational exercises.

"Effective weight loss encompasses accountability and internal motivation and having people there to fuel that motivation," Mohammad said.

The team members will be required to weigh in weekly and work out six days a week for 60 minutes based on the Food and Drug Adminis-

"It's not just about working out, getting to the gym — it's about time management and self-confidence."

CASEY GLVIN
Director of Center
Underground Fitness Center

tration guidelines for physical activity. The workouts will vary between training with a personal trainer, with teammates and group fitness.

The students will participate in swimming, agility exercises, weight training and cardiovascular workouts, Mohammad said.

"They will be exposed to every possible kind of workout to find one they can be comfortable with and do on their own," said Hannah Fuller, a kinesiology and exercise science junior, and certified personal trainer working with the program.

Fuller will work with participants twice a week and help organize bi-weekly team challenges.

"I hope by the end of this program they will

See Fitness on page 6

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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 — Spend more time in thoughtful contemplation. This includes meditation, prayer, and even a nice long nap. Resist doing the latter while operating machinery.
Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 7 — Be careful with passionate salespeople. You could get coerced into spending more than you really should. Also, take care at big department store sales. Keep your receipts.
Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 7 — Self-restraint is required now, so pay attention. A person in power may be wrong, but you don't have to point it out. Discretion is

advised.
Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 6 — Obligations interfere with weekend travel plans. State may interrupt other transmissions as well. Ask somebody to get what you need and bring it to you.
Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 6 — You keep doing the work and getting the money, but where is it all going? If it's to pay bills, cut your expenses so there's an end in sight. Build a big safety net.
Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — You have a plan of action, but everyone is not in agreement. You'll run into arguments from all the regular suspects. Stand up for what you want.
Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 7 — You're so busy, you hardly have any time to fantasize. Postpone dreams about far distant places. Focus on what's here now.
Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — Not a good day to gamble. Don't make risky investments. If you

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MY HEART IS BROKEN

THE DISH

As she mourns Heath Ledger's death, Michelle Williams draws strength from her love for 2-year-old Matilda by Gabe Guarente

By Gabe Guarente

The chateau mar-mont in West Hollywood was a special place for Heath Ledger and Michelle Williams, who used it as a home base during trips to the West Coast when they first started dating. On February 2, Williams, 27 (who has been in virtual seclusion since Ledger's shocking January 22 death), gathered a small group of family and friends, including his Casanova costar Sienna Miller and Miller's boyfriend, Rhys Ifans, at the legendary hotel to remember her ex-fiancé and the father of her 2-year-old child, Matilda. "Michelle sat and told stories about Heath for several hours over a quiet dinner," says a source close to the actress. "Everybody was comforting her. It was very somber."
 Earlier that day, Williams had attended a memorial service on the Sony lot in Culver City, California, where she was joined by her Dawson's Creek costar Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise. Ledger's I'm Not There director, Todd Haynes, said a few words; Ben Harper sang; and a slideshow brought a few guests to tears. "It was a beautiful,

moving celebration of his life," says a source who was there.

As Ledger is finally laid to rest (his body, which was flown to Australia on February 5, will likely be interred in a family plot), the controversy over his death is far from over. On January 31, Entertainment Tonight planned to air a video of Ledger taken at a drug-filled 2006 party. (While Ledger's death is widely believed to be drug-related, results of a toxicology report had not been released at presstime.) After stars such as Sarah Jessica Parker and Natalie Portman urged the show not to air it, the footage was pulled. Soon after, Williams, who split from Ledger in 2007 after a tumultuous three years, issued her emotional plea for privacy (see box, page 68). Her priority: to help Matilda face life without Dad.

What Matilda Knows

"She looks just like her father," says one Williams pal of daddy's girl Matilda, noting that it is unlikely the child — who, a source says, will inherit "everything" from her father — is aware of his death. "She's too young." So how is Williams explaining all the trauma of the past several weeks? "Michelle and the family are showering Matilda with love right now to cushion it so she isn't really aware," says another source close to the family. "Michelle basically told Matilda, 'Daddy went away.' Matilda still doesn't grasp it."

Life With Mom

Though Williams and doting dad Ledger shared custody (and employed a nanny), by all accounts Williams is a hands-on mother. Neighbors in the family-oriented Boerum Hill area of Brooklyn recall a laid-back mom who attends neighborhood parties and even opened her house to trick-or-treaters. Local dad Eric Havlik says he visited Williams' house last Halloween: "Michelle and Matilda gave out good candy together." Another parent, Stacey Shapiro, noticed a tight bond between mother and daughter at one party in nearby Cobble Hill. "Michelle let her just be and wander freely," she says. "But Matilda seemed to never want to leave her side."

More recently, Matilda traveled to the Trollhättan, Sweden, set of Williams' movie Mammot (now on hold), where, a set source says, the two hiked and picnicked. "They loved the outdoors," says the source, adding that Matilda is "a gentle child." Always smiling and laughing.

Finding Closure

"Michelle was always really vulnerable, so this has shaken her quite a bit," says the Williams friend, who spoke to the actress on January 31. For now, production on the upcoming Blue Valentine has been pushed back (see box, page 70). Says a source close to the star, "She's mourning and trying to figure out what to do next."

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Friday
February 8,
2008
PAGE 3

J.D. Williams
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New class lacks big talent, will fill void left by grads

Rich Brooks' job is never easy. Even when it seems like he should be tucked away enjoying the backside of a season with unprecedented high marks.



J.D. WILLIAMS
Kernel columnist

Still, Brooks and his staff were punching the clock on what some consider a holiday in college football — national signing day. This week, fans saw another signing period for their favorite football teams.

Some programs rich with history like those in Alabama and Florida schools get an overflow of talented athletes that could mosley right into a starting spot from day one. With the powerhouses flexing their annual recruiting muscles, the up-and-coming programs like UK have to simply get what they can in the pile of leftovers.

Every now and again, teams in search for greatness will land a top-tier recruit that will have fans juiced up in hopes of him being a cornerstone for the future. But more often than not, schools in the fast lane for consistent success, as UK is, sometimes end up digging at the bottom of the bucket after losing kids on the top of their wish list to bigger programs.

After this class has been evaluated, UK didn't beat the odds. They didn't get the kid that's going to be on the Heisman Watch List in his first year, or his second. And unless something drastic happens, there will be an absence from any Freshman All-American hopefuls.

It's true, UK's newest football players are mostly made up of project prospects. Guys that can develop into good players or could just flop.

But it doesn't matter.

For what UK's 2008 recruiting class lacks in raw talent, it's made up for with something that can't be taught or developed over four years. Instead of budding blue chip stars, UK got speed, a weapon to be reckoned with, and it's something that UK needed.

"We were able to get maybe one of the most athletic and fastest recruiting classes that we've signed since I've been here," Brooks said at a press conference on signing day. "Five years ago one of my greatest statements was that what our team needed was speed. This class has a lot of that in it."

The class is headlined by wideout Aaron Boyd, a local product from Henry Clay High School, and Winston Guy, a defensive back at Lexington Catholic who originally committed to Arkansas but pulled out to be a Cat.

But the absence of high profile recruits should not give room for despair. It's all part of the building process. Brooks will have to continue working with what he's got to keep grabbing wins. Which hasn't been a bad strategy.

His system has produced a Heisman candidate, numerous all-conference performers and more seniors in the Senior Bowl this year than all his years combined. Brooks brings them in as projects then equips them with the skills to succeed. Like a church with a convincing minister, they never leave the same as they came. UK's set to have a record of players selected in April's NFL draft.

Of the notable 20 recruits, there is a handful of players that will challenge for playing time in the wide receiver spots with the absence of departing seniors Keenan Burton and Steve Johnson. Boyd is definitely one of them along with Eric Adeyemi from Miami and Gene McCaskill of Chester, S.C. Much like Burton, McCaskill took snaps as quarterback in high school, and is a playmaker on offense. But the conversion to play Southern Conference football is a tightrope walk, not an easy stroll at all.

J.D. Williams is a journalism senior. E-mail jwilliams@kykernel.com.

Depleted Cats' backcourt runs off Rebels

By James Pennington
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Freshman guard Amber Smith sat at the end of UK's bench all night. Junior guard Carly Ormerod wasn't too many seats down from her, sandwiched between teammates. Smith wore street clothes. Ormerod wore her warm-ups, but she still didn't see any time on the floor.

Both were inactive with two more injuries in what has turned out to be a season full of nicks and bruises for the Cats.

Still, UK (12-11, 6-3 Southeastern Conference) pushed its way to a 59-54 victory at Rupp Arena over Ole Miss, even with a depleted backcourt.

Last night's victory was the Cats' first game since Smith tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee. The injury is one of many that have plagued the Cats this season, but the players and coaches have tackled the challenge by coming together as a team.

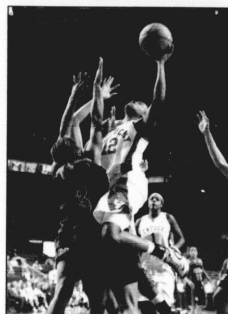
"It was going to have to be a group effort, and it certainly was tonight," head coach Matthew Mitchell said. "This is a really, really special group right now. I'm proud that we won this game."

The Cats' group effort was highlighted by senior center Sarah Elliott, who tallied her 12th career double-double yesterday by scoring 14 points and pulling down 12 rebounds. "I know I can have these nights," Elliott said, "but some nights I can't do it and I get frustrated. This was one of those nights where I could do it. But everybody knocked down open shots, and crashed the boards hard tonight."

In the first 10 minutes of the game, the Cats and the Rebels (9-12, 3-5 SEC) traded blows. Although the Cats opened up with a quick 11-4 lead with 14:07 remaining, the

"I'm very upset. You just don't really want to get me upset. When I'm upset, I'm known to do certain things — like win championships."

— Shaquille O'Neal on his feelings about the people who say the soon-to-be 36-year-old can't fit in the run-and-gun style of the Phoenix Suns.



UK sophomore forward Lydia Watkins attempts a shot on Ole Miss sophomore guard LaKendra Phillips during last night's 59-54 Wildcat victory.

Rebels fought back by running off seven consecutive points and pulled even at 11-11 with 12:34 left on the clock.

The two squads stayed even for the next few minutes, with two ties and one lead change in the next four and a half minutes. With 7:56 on the clock, the Cats took the lead with a three-pointer from senior guard Chelsea Chowning. The score was 18-17 in the Cats' favor.

After Chowning's three, the Cats scored 13 straight points over a three-minute span,

expanding their lead to 26-17 with 4:31 remaining. UK maintained its lead and took an eight-point advantage into halftime, 32-24.

After the intermission, UK held onto its eight-point lead for the next five minutes, but the Rebels did not concede. Ole Miss' Liz Robertson, a sophomore forward, drained a three-pointer with 14:52 on the clock. The shot — Robertson's only three points of the game — ignited the Rebels toward a 7-0 run, pulling them to within one point of the Cats at 40-39 with 12:54 left in the game.

The Rebels' call was soon matched by a Cats response. Before the Rebels could take the lead, freshman forward Victoria Dunlap netted four straight points for the Cats. The Rebels fought back, and senior forward Dee Forrest brought her squad within one possession of a tie, 46-43 with 9:56 remaining.

However, Ole Miss' run was douped by two consecutive Chowning three-pointers.

"What I love about Chelsea is that she had far more failure than success from the three-point line tonight," Mitchell said, "but you could not tell by how she shot the ball. Whenever she shot the ball, she felt like it was going in. Those two shots were at such a critical point in the game since we were struggling to score."

The Rebels came within two points, 55-53, with 93 seconds until the final buzzer. However, each team went more than a minute without scoring and by the time UK senior guard Samantha Mahoney sank a high-arching foul shot from the lane — her only two points of the second half — the Cats had expanded their lead to 57-53 with just 26 seconds remaining.

"We thought as if we had a chance, but Kentucky did a very good job of making the big play at all the right times," Ole Miss head coach Renee Ladner said. "We just couldn't make the big play when we needed it."

Big men may decide UK's battle with Tide

By Travis Waldron
twaldron@kykernel.com

Just three days after facing Auburn, a team with little interior presence, freshman forward Patrick Patterson has a slightly tougher task at hand tomorrow — Richard Hendrix.

Hendrix, a junior forward, and the Alabama Crimson Tide come to Rupp Arena tomorrow, attempting to put an end to UK's four-game win streak.

Hendrix leads the Tide with 19 points per game — third in the Southeastern Conference — and is the only player in the conference averaging double-digit rebounds.

At 6-foot-9 and 255 pounds, Hendrix is a physical inside presence who has already made his mark against the Cats. Last year in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Hendrix poured in 21 points against the Cats in an Alabama victory. But last season Hendrix had fellow big man Jermeo Davidson inside to help. He's played this season without his

running mate who graduated. "I think it's put a little more pressure on me," Alabama coach Mark Gottfried said. "He knows he's got to do a better job."

Hendrix's second team All-SEC selection performance as a sophomore last season set the stage for an even better 2007-08 campaign.

His scoring and rebounding numbers have both improved, and after making 60 percent of his field goal attempts as a sophomore, the junior has hit 62.6 percent of his shots this season.

Still, Gottfried is asking more of his big man inside.

"He has played very, very proud of Richard. And I still think he can do more. Seventeen rebounds (against LSU) is a lot, but he's just so capable of doing some great things and we're just going to keep working with him. But he's done a good job."

Just as a freshman, Patterson has already developed into an offensive force in the paint for UK.

The Huntington, W.V., native has scored at least 15 points in five of six SEC games — including three 20-point games — and has at least eight rebounds in four of those games.

Auburn coach Jeff Lebo spent much of the week leading up to his matchup with UK fretting about Patterson, and his worries proved to be warranted. Patterson hit eight of 10 shots against the Tigers, scoring 19 points.

Though Gottfried isn't faced with the problem of finding someone to guard Patterson, he still lauded the freshman during his weekly teleconference.

"He's obviously very skilled," Gottfried said. "I like how hard he plays. He's done a good job."

Unlike UK, which is streaking through the early part of the SEC schedule, the Tide has limped to a 2-6 start to conference play, including a 73-66 loss to Mississippi State Wednesday night.

The Cats have finished games strong during their 5-2 start in the conference, but that is one area

where Alabama needs to improve, Gottfried said.

"It's discouraging but it's encouraging," Gottfried said. "It's both, knowing that you can get there if you just get a little better."

Injury Report

During the SEC teleconference Thursday, head coach Billy Gillispie did not give an official word on the status of guards Ruel Bradley or Jodie Meeks for tomorrow's game.

Bradley sat out the win at Auburn while suffering from a viral infection and the aftermath of his concussion at Georgia last Saturday.

Asked if the senior would be available tomorrow, Gillispie wasn't sure.

"I hope so," Gillispie said.

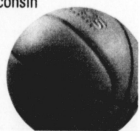
"But I don't know." Meeks was listed as "doubtful" for the Auburn game, and Gillispie did not say what the sophomore's status was for tomorrow.

krystalball

Picks for Saturday, Feb. 9

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Marquette at Notre Dame
Southern Cal at Washington State
Mississippi at Arkansas
Georgetown at Louisville
Purdue at Wisconsin
North Carolina at Maryland



Travis Waldron

Staff writer
Record: 10-1
Last week: 5-1

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Southern Cal
Arkansas
Georgetown
Wisconsin
Maryland

Eric Lindsey

Sports Editor
Record: 8-3
Last week: 3-3

Notre Dame
Washington State
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North Carolina State

Matthew George

Asst. Sports Editor
Record: 8-3
Last week: 3-3

Notre Dame
Washington State
Arkansas
Georgetown
Wisconsin
Maryland

Kyle Brown

UK fan
Record: 8-3
Last week: 3-3

Marquette
Southern Cal
Arkansas
Georgetown
Wisconsin
Maryland

J.D. Williams

Asst. Sports Editor
Record: 6-5
Last week: 2-4

Marquette
Washington State
Ole Miss
Louisville
Purdue
North Carolina State

Jonathan Smith

Sports columnist
Record: 5-5
Last week: 1-5

Notre Dame
Washington State
Arkansas
Louisville
Wisconsin
Maryland

ROLLERBALL

Continued from page 1

"The sport has recently received a sort of grassroots revival," Darling said. "Women play this everywhere now from an airplane hanger in California to the fairgrounds in Louisville."

Kitty O'Doom, who answers to Hannah Trusty when on the job in UK's statistics department, said this time last year she didn't know much about roller derby, but now she is developing into a good player on the RollerGirls, the only Lexington team in the Women's Flat Track Derby Association.

"I had been watching the show 'RollerGirls' on A&E and had seen fliers for the Lexington team in a tattoo par-

lor," O'Doom said. "I came in and had never been on skates, but now in March, I will have been here for a year."

The team is always looking for new members to come and try out. The team is currently holding open recruitment for all levels throughout February.

"We encourage everyone to come out and give it a try," Darling said. "We have people come out at all skill levels, some come in not even knowing how to skate, but we always are open to teaching and helping people learn the sport."

Tryouts for the RollerGirls of Central Kentucky are held at their practices at Champ's Skate Center on Ruccio Way Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturdays.

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Dance Blue



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February 22-23, 2008

OPINIONS

KERNEL EDITORIAL BOARD

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The opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's unopinioned 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**

Domestic partner benefits bill based on shaky reasoning

It's déjà vu for the General Assembly and Kentucky domestic partners. For the second year in a row, a bill that would ban public universities and other state institutions from offering health insurance plans to domestic partners, such as same-sex couples, passed the Kentucky Senate last week and is on its way to the House Health and Welfare Committee, the Kernel reported.

It is our hope history will continue to repeat itself, and the bill will die in the House committee as it did last year, for many practical and ideological reasons.

First, as Gov. Steve Beshear said during his budget proposal, as reported in a Jan. 30 Kernel article, Medicaid should receive the largest amount of new funding. If health care supplied by Medicaid is so important, why would the state government pass a bill restricting others' access to health insurance?

Some state senators and representatives have said that supplying health insurance to domestic partners creates a system that is too easy to corrupt. These politicians argue fraud would be higher when health insurance packages are offered to domestic partners since there is no marriage contract to validate the relationship.

But this view is shortsighted. Fraud is a risk in any insurance package. Validating the legitimacy of insurance applicants is a standard precaution and can be applied to domestic partners as well. Also, the fact that some perceive a higher risk of fraud should not outweigh an individual's right to state-funded healthcare.

Some in Frankfort, like Rep. Stan Lee, R-Lexington, have argued that the cost of supplying such benefits is too great, especially during the current

state budget crisis.

Lee makes an unsound argument. Although the state allots UK and all other public universities funding, the money paying for these benefits comes from the colleges' budgets. UK, which has been supplying domestic partner benefits since July 2007, has as much interest as the entire state in holding on to as much money as it can during such a rocky budget biennium.

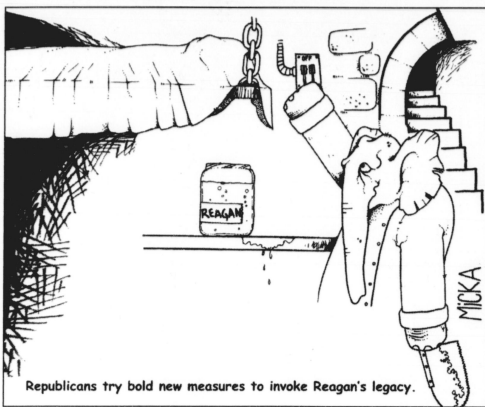
UK not only feels comfortable giving out such benefits but advocates them to attract the best faculty nationwide. Many universities around the country were supplying these benefits long before the University of Louisville became the first public university in Kentucky to do so in January 2007. What's more, micromanaging university policies should not be a priority of state legislators.

Frankly, it is our opinion, and fear, that opposition to these benefits is inherently rooted in bigotry.

It seems it would be much more difficult to restrict state-funded healthcare for any other population of people. But for Kentucky homosexuals, a population for which marriage is illegal after a 2004 state amendment vote, it is easier for many to focus on the consequences of cost and risk of fraud. It becomes easier to restrict persons' rights rather than expand them.

The value of these benefits to state colleges and universities is clear, and the opposition to them is not.

When the money to pay for such benefits is already at the universities' disposal and the practical reasons for them is in attracting qualified faculty of all backgrounds to benefit higher education, the proponents of this legislation seem to stand against lifestyles they don't agree with far more than they stand for the betterment of the state.



PATRICK MICKA, Kernel cartoonist

Still wondering whom to vote for? Don't forget about abortion rights

Over Mardi Gras dinner on Tuesday night, a friend told me about her discussion with another pal who



CARRIE BASS
Kernel columnist

seemed to think that Roe v. Wade could never be overturned. My friend was appalled by this declaration of absolute assurance that once the U.S. Supreme Court has promised something, it would not go back on its

word. This story really got me thinking. Most of my closest girlfriends are into women's sexuality, so they are aware of the perilous situation that Roe v. Wade is currently in and how important it is to consider a pro-choice candidate in the upcoming presidential primary and subsequent election.

I think a lot of ladies (and gentlemen) are a little too confident in the security of Roe, and that security is causing them to disregard abortion as a legitimately pressing issue in the race for the presidency.

Although I am sure most of you

out there already know this, a good restatement of the obvious could be the wake-up call that we all need. Roe v. Wade is case law, folks. Case law is arguably the weakest kind of law, in part because the Supreme Court can choose to overturn any previous ruling if the majority feels that opinion was wrong.

Nine people currently hold the power of decision over one of the most controversial issues in this country today. Not only do we need a president who will be prepared to appoint a pro-choice Supreme Court justice, but we need more than that. We need a president who will sign women's right to abortion into federal law.

Codifying women's right to abortion into federal law will make it far more difficult for the Supreme Court or any other governmental body to legalize or even criminalize abortion.

Furthermore, it will put a stop to the chipping away at Roe v. Wade by the anti-abortion movement. Waiting periods, age restrictions, restrictions of types of abortions, the global gag rule and so on are slowly eroding the right to abortion guaranteed by Roe.

The most appalling move recently was the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in 2007.

Seriously, "partial-birth abortion" is not even a real term; it's like the anti-abortion version of the Tooth Fairy. I will not go into explaining the minutiae of the Court's decision or of second-trimester abortion methods, but if you are curious about why this is just silly, look up Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's dissent in Gonzales v. Carhart.

The point is Roe v. Wade is not set in stone. Yet.

The right to an abortion is more than just that. It is the right to privacy, the right to autonomy over our own bodies; it is the right of women to their sexuality and their lives independent of biological function.

I know that many of you out there do not see yourselves sprinting to the local abortion clinic the next time you have a "scare," but please consider that such a choice should remain with the individual, not with Chief Justice John Roberts or former presidential hopeful Mitt Romney.

The anti-abortion movement is just part of a chain reaction: First abortion, then the morning-after-pill, then hormonal birth control, then condoms and then we're back to banging each other over sexual freedom. Vote smartly, kids.

Carrie Bass is an art history senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

■ **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Calls for SG president to resign inappropriate

The controversial e-mail that UK Student Government President Nick Phelps forwarded is both misleading and factually incorrect. While I commend the Muslim Student Association for looking at the situation as an opportunity for education, this issue has been blown absurdly out of proportion.

Even as a registered Democrat and as a student actively involved in campus diversity programming, I must stand against UK College Democrats' President Robert Kahne's extreme and thoughtless call for Phelps' resignation. This is not the appropriate solution but just the first to pop into his head. It is merely an attempt by Kahne to make a name for himself on campus for a few days by getting a quote or two in the local media.

It is not hard to envision that Phelps, in forwarding the e-mail to seven of his closest colleagues (his executive staff), was simply trying to spark a political dialogue, or, at worst, ruffle the feathers of a few close friends. My uncle forwarded me the same e-mail weeks ago without a disclaimer, but I know him and recognized it was not his personal opinion. I understand how such an ignorant e-mail could offend UK students, but I do not understand how forwarding it to individuals that know him better than that offends students.

It's easy to point fingers and assume the worst. Kahne's own ethics could be called into question for going undercover and trying to get a job on Republican Anne Northrup's campaign while actually in support of Democrat John Yarmuth during the last congressional race.

The most disturbing and disappointing part of this entire storm is it eclipses how hard Phelps and the rest of SG have been working recently to promptly and effectively address Gov. Steve Beshear's proposed 12 percent cut in state university funding. Unlike prior SG administrations, Phelps and other SG members have met with over 20 elected officials in Frankfort just since the 2008 ball dropped. The more undue attention the controversial e-mail gets, the less necessary attention your tuition will receive.

Nick Phelps has been the most productive SG president in years, and his record is flawless. Don't let a misunderstanding mislead you.

Tim Pearce
Economics and management sophomore

With SG election fast approaching, vote wisely

Now that Nick Phelps has apologized for forwarding an inflammatory and inappropriate e-mail, it is time for the campus to not only unite around the issue of diversity, but to also reflect on what it really means to be a member of Student Government and a representative of the entire student body. Even if Phelps does not resign, there will be another election for SG positions soon.

We have been given insight into the ability of our elected SG representatives to lead and to make solid decisions about their actions and the role they play in our university's campus. When the SG elections start this time around, students who have been appalled by the recent actions of SG president and senators alike should consider voting for someone who is capable of representing us with dignity and respect for their office.

I believe an SG member should be easily accessible to students and be aware of the issues we care about (revamping Boyd and Jewell halls, stopping destructive plans for Robinson Forest, creating a sustainable campus, etc.), and extremely cognizant of their actions. If you have read the recent quotes of our representatives in the Kernel, you know that there is much left to be desired.

This time when you vote, think about whether the person you are choosing is someone who is qualified to represent you well, to be open to your concerns every single day, and to provide a strong and vocal voice of the student body at the Board of Trustees meetings.

If in the past you have voted for someone simply because they are a part of the Greek community, or they handed you Rice Krispie treat, or they have the most obnoxious and ever-present signs tacked up everywhere, think twice this year.

Stop the scandals and use your vote to ensure a positive, progressive future for all students at UK.

Laura Seithers
Linguistics, Spanish and gender and women's studies senior

The debate on the greatest president: Is there really an answer?

Some debates are unwinnable, often because the arguments are based purely on emotion or personal reference, and some times because the question itself is ambiguous at best.

Take for example, "Who was the greatest president in U.S. history?"



BOB RAY SANDERS
syndicated columnist

That question obviously calls for a subjective response. But believe it or not, there was a time not so long ago when on a civil service exam reportedly there was one correct answer: I'll get to that later.

The issue surfaced again for me after my recent column on Barack Obama in which I chastised Bill and Hillary Clinton for ridiculing the Illinois senator for invoking the name of John F. Kennedy when explaining his message of hope. I also noted the endorsement of Obama by the slain president's daughter, Caroline Kennedy, and brother, Sen. Ted Kennedy.

I heard from a longtime friend and political activist and observer — and a Hillary Clinton supporter in this year's campaign — who criticized the Kennedy clan in general, and John Kennedy in particular.

He went on to praise the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson and wondered how I could have overlooked or dismissed the Texan's achievements, particularly in the area of civil rights.

It's hard to explain to some people that to praise one president does

not necessarily mean that you're automatically denigrating another.

On the day of his death, I eulogized Johnson during a live broadcast on public television. I said that I regarded him, "for personal reasons," as America's greatest president. You see, I was a beneficiary of his landmark civil rights legislation.

But I always had held Kennedy in the highest esteem, primarily because he came bearing an abundance of hope.

I agreed with my friend that Kennedy probably couldn't have gotten civil rights legislation through Congress even had he lived to be elected to and served a full second term. And as sad as it might sound, he might have gotten more done through his death (in terms of social justice) than he would have accomplished in his life.

Again, where does greatness lie — in the ability to inspire a nation, the power to produce programs that directly affect people or in the capability to do both?

I marvel as Republican candidates have tried desperately to connect to the memory of Ronald Reagan. And I am reminded how Reagan evoked the memory of two Democrats: Harry Truman when he wanted to emphasize that "the buck stops here," and Kennedy when he wanted to talk about lowering taxes.

Some names automatically come to mind when one thinks of great presidents, although I'm sure we all would not agree on those who should make that list.

Kennedy and Truman would be there, along with Franklin D. Roosevelt and perhaps even Theodore Roosevelt. Reagan certainly would

make the list among Republicans, but few Democrats probably would include him on their roster of greats.

Of course, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln would be among the greatest of all time — which brings me to that question once included on a Dallas firefighters' exam: Who was the greatest American president, Washington or Lincoln?

I couldn't believe it when I heard that such a question could be part of a selection process, and that it was not an essay topic but required a specific answer. (I reported that issue on public television as well.)

This was during a time when there was a push to get more blacks in the Dallas Fire Department, and some felt that particular question was designed to make blacks score lower on the exam.

You see, most blacks answered Lincoln; whites tended to choose Washington. Guess which one was the right response?

That question eventually was dropped, but the debate continues. During this election year, you can count on being asked to decide which candidate for president most represents a former commander in chief whom you regard as great.

In fact, I'd like you to answer the question right now. Who was the greatest president who served this nation?

Submit your answer, along with a brief (25 words or less) explanation, to bobray@star-telegram.com, or by mailing it to my attention at P.O. Box 1870, Fort Worth, Texas 76101.

Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

FEATURES

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Phone: 257-1915
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framebyframe | This week's box office hits and misses

'The Eye' blind to true horror film genre

By Ricky Simpson
rsimpson@kykernel.com

The Eye
Starring: Jessica Alba

There is something unsatisfying about a horror flick that is just not scary. This early 2008 ghost story may be a little mild for the die-hard witch hunters.

In "The Eye," Sydney (Alba), a twenty-something violin player, has been blind since she was 5, and she sees life through a plethora of alternate senses. Through the miracle of a cornea transplant, Sydney can finally see the world through blurry shapes and shades. Soon Sydney notices strange figures that no one else seems to be able to see.

Of course, Sydney is shaken by the mysterious images and goes on a mission to discover the previous owner of her eyes. She begins to piece together the meaning of her eerie visions.

Like "The Grudge," this film is a made from Asian movies, in this case Hong Kong's "Jian Gui." This remake takes a little bit to get started. The film is less than two hours long and really doesn't pick up until the final couple of minutes.

which really doesn't make the plot any more believable, but at least gives us a reason for the supernatural activities. Overall, this film is a ghost story, but isn't scary at all. It doesn't give you the same feeling a creepy horror flick gives you in a theater. Admittedly, the viewer is confused throughout, left to ponder the reason for Alba's visions and what the point may be for these blurry men, and there is a small payoff in the end. But conveniently, Sydney has an opportunity in the end to go back to the self she has always been and, not surprisingly, ditch her new eyes.

This film runs only 97 minutes and is rated PG-13 for mild ghostly images. If you are looking for a good horror flick, this one doesn't deliver. If you like a thriller, there are some mild thrills but this one is forgettable in the end.

Grade: C

Opening Today
Welcome Home
Roscoe Jenkins

Starring: Martin Lawrence, Louis CK

Remaining consistent. Lawrence leads in yet another

slapstick comedy with plenty of physical humor and cheap laughs. If you like his past projects, such as "Big Momma's House," this should bring the same humor as before.

Fool's Gold

Starring: Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson

The McConaughey-Hudson team plays out another romantic comedy with their sparkling smirks and golden locks. This time the two play a married couple with a lost spark when an unexpected adventure rekindles their affection. This looks to be a decent date movie for both sides and may be the film to catch this weekend.

The Hottie And The Nottie

Starring: Paris Hilton, Joel Moore, Christine Lakin

Nate (Moore) travels to Los Angeles following his life long love, the smoking-hot Cristabelle (Hilton) who has a no-so-hot friend, June (Lakin). But when her heart starts to show through, Nate begins to fall for true beauty.

Upcoming DVDs
Why Did I Get Married?

Starring: Janet Jackson, Malik Yoba, Tyler Perry

Perry is one of the greatest in the film industry right now at touching on humanistic subject matters and this film is no different. With touching characterization, intimate personal situations, "Married" has a well-balanced portion of comedy and drama.

Gone Baby Gone

Starring: Casey Affleck, Michelle Monaghan, Amy Ryan

One of the most critically acclaimed sleepers of the year, this Ben Affleck-directed film has earned Ryan an Oscar nomination for supporting actress.

Becoming Jane

Starring: Anne Hathaway, James McAvoy

This is a bio-pic of a young Jane Austen (Hathaway) as we follow her through a youthful romance before her fame.

UK to host musical gala for 'Honest Abe'

STAFF REPORT

The nation is still feeling the effects of Super Tuesday, but now is the time to recharge and celebrate a politician who has already changed the course of American history: Abraham Lincoln.

UK is hosting "Our Lincoln: A Celebration for the Lincoln Bicentennial" at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Singletary Center for the Arts. Tickets cost between \$12 to \$25. Kentucky native and journalist Nick Clooney will be the master of ceremonies for the event.

The gala is a musical homage to the life and influence of Lincoln, born in Hardin County, Ky., said Steve Price of the Kentucky Humanities Council.

The UK Opera Theatre will premiere a portion of the new opera, "River of Time," which depicts Lincoln as a young man. The Lexington Philharmonic will perform Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" with actor Roger Leasor.

"Our Lincoln" is the kick-off event for the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birthday on Feb. 12, 1809. The Kentucky Humanities Council is organizing three other events through 2009 to celebrate the bicentennial, Price said.

More information on Sunday's ceremonies is available at the event Web site (www.ourlincoln.org).

Correction

An event listing on page 4 of yesterday's Kernel had the wrong date for an upcoming show. "Love in the Time Musical" will be at Natasa's Cafe on Monday at 8 p.m. Tickets are free, but a \$5 donation is suggested.

ALERT

Continued from page 1

6,000 people, a 65 percent success rate, up slightly from a 61 percent success rate during the tornado warnings Wednesday morning.

Giles also sent out a separate message to about 1,300 parents with 100 percent success.

When she realized 2,100 people on campus had not received the initial alert of the shooting, Giles resent the message to that group at 2:57 a.m.

By early morning, the alert reached 7,300 people, about 99 percent success rate, Blanton said.

"We have several thousand people receiving information that they never would have before," Blanton said.

The alerts were given a 2-hour limit to reach their recipients, so some could have received a message or phone call

close to 5 a.m. yesterday, nine hours after the shots were reported.

Giles suggested people consider situations like last night's when they choose whether they want to be contacted by a phone call, a text message, an e-mail or various other communication methods during an emergency.

"They need to think about how they want to be notified," she said. "We can't predict when an emergency is going to occur. They have to decide whether they want to take those calls in the wee hours of the morning."

UK police are still looking for suspects from the incident at Greg Page.

One man was described as an 18- to 19-year-old black male with shoulder-length black hair, according to a UK news release. The other two men at the door were described as 18- to 19-year-old black males, and one had a black goatee.

Anyone with information regarding the incident can contact UK police at (859) 257-1616.

FITNESS

Continued from page 1

feel comfortable and have the knowledge to work out on their own, along with better eating habits and the motivation to live a healthier lifestyle," Fuller said.

The weight management program also offers several health education sessions designed to promote lifestyle changes, including education on nutrition and grocery shopping, team building, motivation and positive thinking.

"It's not just about working out, getting to the gym — it's about time management and self-confidence," said Casey Gilvin, director of the Underground Fitness Center, co-designer of Wildcat Fit Camp and a certified personal trainer.

All of the services provided in the program are also available for any UK student at campus gyms and Mohammad said she hopes the program will grow and will be open to more students in the fall.

"The goal is to have one large weight management program with a large population and the campus cheering them on," Mohammad said.

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February 12th

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UK
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For additional information about screenings for depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, substance abuse, eating disorders, and post-traumatic stress, visit the Counseling & Testing Center online at www.uky.edu/studentaffairs/counseling or call 257-8701.

ALCOHOL RESEARCH STUDIES AT UK

- UK's Alcohol Research Center in the Department of Psychology is conducting a number of studies involving the effects of alcohol on behavior.
- Participants should be between 21-35 years of age for alcohol studies.
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S M T W T F S

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