

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

## Smooth first day at campus, online polls

By Katie Saltz  
ksaltz@kykernel.com

In the first year students are able to vote online from any computer in spring Student Government elections, more than 1,500 students voted by 2 p.m. yesterday. Last year, 1,677 students voted at nine campus polling locations at the end of the first day.

SG adviser Todd Cox said he did not know the exact number of voters when the polls closed at 6 p.m., but he said the numbers had "grown substantially throughout the day."

"(Wednesday) was a huge success for online voting," Cox said.

There have not been any major technical problems with the election so far, said Katelyn Wallace, the SG Election Board chair.

"The only problems we have had is with people logging in and there have been very few of those," Wallace said.

"If you are walking by the Classroom Building and got nothing going on and don't vote, you are denying yourself a right..."

TAYLOR WEHLE  
psychology sophomore

"It went really smooth," he said. "And I got a cool 'I Voted' sticker."

Each polling location has paper ballots on hand in case students have a problem with the computers. The paper ballots can also be used if a student wants to write-in multiple candidates for colleges with multiple Senate seats.

Students who used the two on-campus polling locations in White Hall Classroom Building and W.T. Young Library said voting was fairly easy. Violet Brittain, an international studies junior, said it took almost no time to cast her vote.

"The process was really simple," Brittain said. "I didn't have any problems and it took maybe three minutes."

Though online voting is convenient because it can be done from anywhere, Brittain said she thinks the polling locations are easier for students who are already on campus.

"I think more people will vote at the polls than online because they are already here," she said.

Passing the polling locations on the way to class makes it hard for students to have an excuse not to vote, Wehle said.

"I voted because I think it'd be stupid not to," Wehle said. "If you are walking by the Classroom Building and got nothing going on and you don't vote, you are denying yourself a right as a student and wasting a privilege."

The Classroom Building polling location brought in more voters than the location at W.T. Young Library, said Naorin Motailib, a psychology

See Elections on page 5

## One arrest made in Greg Page burglary

By Alice Haymond  
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UK police arrested a man Tuesday night on charges of first-degree burglary and kidnapping in connection with a Monday incident at Greg Page Apartments.

Charles Earl Mason Jr., 21, who was arrested, and Roderick Andre Reese, 20, who is being sought by police, were identified as the two suspects under suspicion for the incident where two men took cash and a Dell laptop from a Greg Page resident, who is also a Bluegrass Community and Technical College student, according to UK police.



Mason



Reese

Neither Mason nor Reese are students, police said. They are both originally from Radcliff, Ky.

Police found Mason, a Lexington resident, in town late Tuesday night, said interim UK chief Maj. Joe Monroe. UK police convinced him to come

to the headquarters where he was charged, Monroe said.

There is a warrant out for Reese's arrest on charges of first-degree burglary and kidnapping, but police are still searching for him, Monroe said.

"We do know he is trying to avoid us," Monroe said. "We don't know if he's headed back home, but it's possible. We have reason to believe he's probably left the (Lexington) area."

On Monday, two men entered the apartment armed with a knife and a miniature baseball bat. After taking the Greg Page resident's laptop and the cash on hand, the men forced the

victim to drive to a local bank to withdraw more cash. After dropping them off near W.T. Young Library, the victim was allowed to return home.

The incident was isolated, Monroe said, and there is no reason to believe the men committed any additional robberies. The men did not know the victim, he said.

Mason was being held at the Fayette County Detention Center last night on a bond of \$35,000. He will appear before Fayette County District Court on Tuesday.

UK Police continue to search for Reese, and anyone with information about his whereabouts can contact the police at (859) 257-1616.



BRITNEY MCINTOSH | STAFF

Elaine Collins, an English sophomore, hugs Jon Bellwood, a journalism senior, yesterday evening at the Take Back the Night event. Participants walked from Memorial Hall down Limestone Street, and down Rose street to raise awareness about sexual violence.

## A venue for ending the silence

By Robin Pircher  
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Students and community members, victims and supporters threw up their hands and screamed as they circled around the amphitheater behind Memorial Hall last night.

The scream represented the end of silence on the abuse of women and the end of silence on sexual violence. It was a scream to end fear and initiate awareness, said Dorothy Edwards, director of the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center.

The participants of the third annual Take Back the Night, a march designed to raise awareness of violence toward women, held a silent march down Limestone Street, circled around campus and ended with a celebration of women sharing their

stories and an empowerment concert to encourage victims.

About 26 victims of sexual violence and their supporters shared personal stories, poems and inspirational words in front of 2,309 pictures of local women — also people affected by violence — that were projected on the wall behind the stage. Each woman was someone affected by some form of violence.

"I encourage these victims to honor their journey in its own time," Edwards said. "There's no right way to do this. Take these steps when you're ready."

Posters of drawings and words of encouragement, tables of information for victims and painted T-shirts were available for the crowd of nearly 200, who were dotted

with buttons that read "mother," "sister," "friend," "daughter" and "girlfriend."

"One in three UK students will encounter violence before graduation," Edwards said. These actions of physical abuse, assault and stalking, she said.

Events like Take Back the Night, including the empowerment concert, help show women that there is support and awareness surrounding victims to help them recover, Edwards said.

"I would tell victims to always stay on the front burner," Edwards said. "To reduce violence, people have to get involved, then take action. (Take Back the Night) provides a venue."

The event was organized by student volunteers and Abigail Weidhuner, a Spanish freshman, said people can continue to get involved with the cause on campus after the march.

"The VIP center is where these people can come feel safe and others can volunteer to help," Weidhuner said. "You can make sure the future is different."



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF

Two-year-old Grace Ellis-Hawley holds a sign in last night's event, Take Back the Night.

## UK robot to be tested for moon readiness in earthy conference

By Jennifer Miles  
news@kykernel.com

A small group of engineering students have taken on the challenge of building a robot designed to retrieve minerals from the moon.

UK's student branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. will enter the robot in an April 5 tournament during the IEEE Southeast-Con conference in Huntsville, Ala.

Several organizations are in competition to retrieve these minerals and return them to earth.

Peter Ferland, an electrical engineer

and the chair of UK's robot contingent, said the team is composed of half a dozen engineering students. They began building the robot in October.

The contest offers engineering students a chance to tackle a design problem start to finish, providing valuable experience for future engineers," Ferland said.

In the tournament, each team must build an autonomous robot that will perform on an earth-bound course, collecting colored wooden blocks representing moon minerals and returning them to its home base to score points.

The block's color determines the number of points the team will receive.

The eight teams with the most points after three preliminary rounds advance to play in a tournament to decide the overall winner.

UK's robot has two decks of plastic with a gripper in front for collecting blocks, two drive wheels and a caster, Ferland said.

"The bottom deck has the gripper, the motors for the wheels and a large battery pack," Ferland said. "The upper deck has the logic board and sensors."

Regina Hannemann, a lecturer in

Electrical and Computer Engineering at UK and the IEEE Student Branch Counselor, served as an adviser to the students. She said the competition is held annually, with a different task to solve every year.

"UK has participated in the competition for a long time," Hannemann said. "So, it is kind of a tradition to go to SoutheastCon and have a robot in the hardware competition."

UK has not entered for the last three years, Hannemann said, even though some effort was made to build robots. This year's team has been working hard, she said.

"They've worked on it a few hours per week since the beginning (of the fall semester) and put in some extra hours now over spring break to get the robot finally done," she said.

Ahmed Abdalla, chair of UK's branch of IEEE, did not help directly in building the robot, but served as a manager. The electrical engineering senior organized the construction by ordering parts and organizing the trip to the conference. He said he is excited about the competition.

"We are representing UK and we get to compete with big schools like MIT and Virginia Tech," he said.

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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 an 8 — Follow a person who has a strong, positive vision for the future. You and your team can overcome whatever's in your way. You're hot, and getting hotter.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)** Today is a 5 — Mistakes and misunderstandings are easy to make, so watch where you're going. Take care of your own business and let others take care of theirs.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 21)** Today is an 8 — With the help of a partner, a dream can now come true. Get the right person for the job. It's a great day to interview.

**Cancer (June 22 - July 22)** Today

is a 6 — There doesn't seem to be a replacement for good, hard work. The tricksters and phonies will be revealed. Be honest and practical, and you'll do just fine.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)** Today is a 9 — You'll confront many obstacles in this endeavor. Don't be intimidated or dissuaded for a moment. Stay on course, watch where you're going, and success is assured.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)** Today is a 5 — Great imagination and teamwork are required, for a while. Luckily, you're surrounded by people quite capable and adept. Utilize their talents.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)** Today is an 8 — You're compelled to succeed, but don't let that make you nervous. If you can dance like nobody's watching, you'll put on a better performance.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)** Today is a 6 — It's best to avoid a controversial subject for a little while. Think about your position longer before trying to sell it.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** Today is an 8 — Not everybody agrees with your conclusions, but that's OK. They have a right to their own opinions. Just make sure you don't have to pay for their mistakes.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)** Today is a 5 — The more you learn, the more you realize you didn't know. That's the downside of continuing your education. The benefits come next.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)** Today is a 7 — You may feel like being generous, but that's not a great idea. Exercise self-discipline or you'll spend more than you can afford. The latter could happen quickly.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)** Today is a 5 — The pressure's really on. How will you perform? Well, actually, it looks like you'll do quite well. Conditions turn in your favor right at the very end.

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## THE DISH

The glamorous 'Top Chef' host gives Us her recipe for success

Don't hate Padma Lakshmi because she's impossibly gorgeous. Hate the former model because, as host of Bravo's hit "Top Chef" (Wednesdays, 10 p.m.), she gamely eats everything from chicken piccata to souffles, yet doesn't seem to gain an ounce. (She loves hot dogs too.) "I always pig out," she proudly says, "but I exercise my ass off!" The single Indian-born NYC resident, 37, breaks bread with Us.

**Q: What was your highlight of this season?**

A: For me, filming in Chicago. I'd never been there! You'll see some sporting-event challenges and neighborhood culture. It's a big food town.

**Q: As noted by the deejay, what's your favorite pizza?**

A: That was my worst day on the job! I had about 65 bites of pizza and felt really sick. So much heavy dough. Some of it was just not good.

**Q: So let's hear about the exercise regimen.**

A: I box three days a week for an hour, and I lift weights. Also, I do cardio every day, whether it's running on a treadmill or skipping rope. I'm the only Indian who never got into yoga.

**Q: You're a former Food Network host who has published two cookbooks. How**

has "Top Chef" influenced your culinary style?

A: I'm much more adventurous. I was always curious about food, but now I'll try weird things like elk, rattlesnake and bison.

**Q: During dates, do you judge a guy based on his food order?**

A: No, but I can tell a lot about people based on what they eat. And I'm turned off by a guy who doesn't have an appetite.

**The Hunks of 'Stop-Loss'**

A few good men! Us gets the scoop on the hot movie's sexy soldiers.

Ryan Phillippe: Life imitating art? The Delaware native, 33, and father of two (with ex Reese Witherspoon, 32) met on-off love Abbie Cornish, 25, while romancing her in the film, but told Us she didn't end his marriage: "I had difficulties in my relationship ... long before I ever met her."

Channing Tatum: "He taught me more than any acting class," the Alabama native, 27, says of Phillippe. Offscreen, the actor is dating actress Jenna Dewan, 27: "My girlfriend liked seeing the pictures of me in uniform!"

Timothy Olyphant: The Honolulu-born actor, 39, is the voice of authority when the soldiers are called back to duty. "I'm the lieutenant colonel who is saying, 'We've got to go back,'" the married father of three has said.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt: Be-

fore playing a soldier with post-traumatic stress disorder, the single L.A. native, 27, costarred on "3rd Rock From the Sun." Of his new role, he has said, "He's having trouble, but he's got his brothers to help him."

**Marissa's Big Weight Loss**

From Broadway to ballroom! Marissa Jaret Winokur — who won a Tony award in 2003 for her lead role in "Hair-spray" — is taking center stage on "Dancing With the Stars" (ABC, Mondays and Tuesdays). The married New York native, 35 (who shed 40 pounds before starting rehearsals), talks to Us.

**Q: What made you want to do the show?**

A: I basically begged them. I have been a fan since the beginning, and last year I was watching and said, "Wait, I want to do this!"

**Q: Do you and partner Tony Danza get along?**

A: We are having a blast. He is an amazing teacher — once I let him be the teacher and I took on the role of student! We only butt heads when I want to stop for lunch!

**Q: How are your friends supporting you?**

A: Ricki (Lake) calls me almost every day to see how it's going. I actually called her before I was allowed to tell anybody I was doing the show. We were screaming.

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Today's Dish  
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**KENTUCKY BANDS**  
Where have you been this year?  
Football: UK vs. Arkansas; Fayetteville, AR - UK vs. Georgia; Athens, GA - UK vs. South Carolina; Columbia, SC - Music City Bowl vs. Florida State  
Basketball: Men's SEC Basketball Tournament; Atlanta, GA - Women's SEC Basketball Tournament; Nashville, TN - Winger MacArthur Bowl - NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament; Athens, GA - UK Basketball vs. Blue Devils

# GUSTO'S



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PAGE 3

Emily Covert  
Features Editor  
Phone: 257-1915  
ecovert@kykernel.com

# kernel POP

“I was registered in school under the name Regina Fischer, so in the first homeroom every year they would call out ‘Regina Fischer’ and I’d be like, ‘It’s Jenna.’ But one day in fifth grade, we had a substitute teacher. ... She said, ‘Reg-eye-na.’ So all the kids on the school bus that day called me Reg-eye-na Vagina.”

— Jenna Fischer, who plays Pam on “The Office”

## Writer takes small college to the big screen

By Autumn Harrison  
aharrison@kykernel.com

Some familiar places and faces will grace the silver screen when a locally produced movie makes its debut.

“Surviving Guthrie,” a dark comedy partly shot in Lexington, premieres tonight at 7:30 at the Kentucky Theater.

The film tells the story of Carter Guthrie — a drunk, hard-to-deal-with professor at a fictional liberal arts college — and his daughter, Ally, whom the dean has threatened to expel if she doesn’t stop her father from acting out.

Jesse Harris, a 2006 Georgetown College graduate, wrote “Surviving Guthrie” for a screenwriting class while he was still a student.

The film is really about the fine line between being authentic and acting to please others, as well as themes like relationships and pushing limits too far, Harris said.

“When you get right down to it, it’s a man getting to know his daughter that he’s never taken the time to,” he said.

Several locations around Lexington were used during the filming — which, at one point while the crew was working at a house just outside town, led to a

misunderstanding between the crew and police officers that interrupted the shoot, Harris said.

“They thought we were shooting a porno,” Harris said. “We brought them up and showed them the script. They were really nice and just doing their job.”

Many of the actors in “Surviving Guthrie” are from the Lexington area. Lead actor Joe Gatto of Lexington has been in many commercials and productions around town, and the female lead, Jesse Pennington, has starred in several of Georgetown’s theater productions.

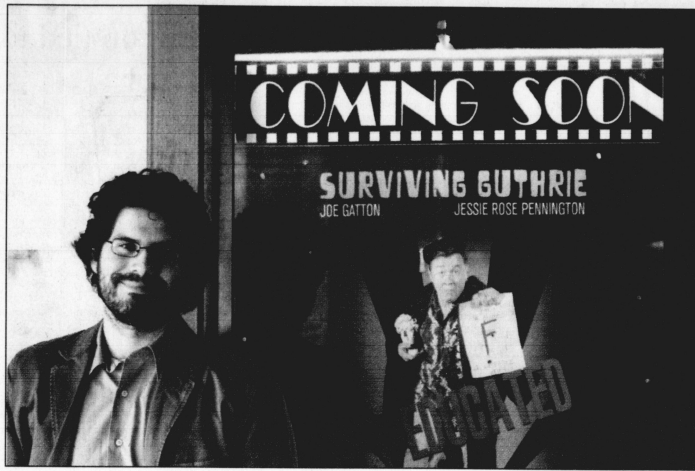
Other Georgetown students played a lot of the smaller parts in the film, Harris said, and UK student Dane Dickmann worked as the sound editor.

Music from local bands, including Mach is Given and The October, is also used in the film. Dustin Burnett, one of the members of The October, wrote the theme, “Change the World,” which plays during the credits.

The film had a small budget, and actors volunteered their time, Harris said.

“We made something that looks and sounds like a movie for the cost of a Camry,” he said.

“Surviving Guthrie” is definitely a college movie, Harris



The feature film from Jesse Harris’ screenplay “Surviving Guthrie” premieres tonight at the Kentucky Theater. As of yesterday afternoon over 500 seats had been reserved.

said, with scenes and types of people that will be familiar to students.

“The people talk like students, not like it’s ‘Dawson’s

Creek’ and everyone sounds like an English major,” he said. “Not that I didn’t watch ‘Dawson’s Creek.’”

Harris said he’s been im-

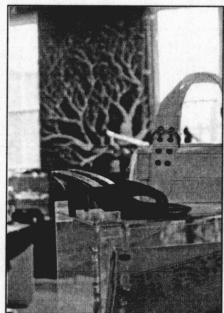
pressed by the level of support he’s seen for “Surviving Guthrie.”

“People have really gotten behind this project,” said Harris.

“I’m thrilled to death.”

Tickets for the premiere can be reserved by calling The Store at Georgetown at (502) 863-8134.

### BOUTIQUE OF THE WEEK



CHRISTINA LAYTON | STAFF

Spree boutique is located on East High Street and offers a variety of unique clothing, handbags, jewelry and accessories.

**Who:** Spree  
**Where:** 490 E. High St.  
**Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
**Price Range:** Mid-range  
**Why it’s cool:** Spree receives new shipments weekly and has new lines of spring dresses coming in regularly. The store features designers such as Miss Me, Rubber Ducky and Soda Blu. Spree also boasts a large collection of contemporary costume jewelry. This boutique is connected to Ramsey’s on High Street.

COMPILED BY ANA CLEGG

### TOP 10 radio

WRFL 88.1 FM  
Most-played albums of the week

1. Beach House “Devotion”
2. Black Mountain “In The Future”
3. A Weather “Cove”
4. Eli Power “In A Cave”
5. Mahjongg “Kontpab”
6. Times New Viking “Rip It Off”
7. Vampire Weekend “Vampire Weekend”
8. Mae Shi “Hillyh”
9. Various “Independent Music Awards”
10. Dengue Fever “Venus On Earth”

### MAKE YOUR

## WEEKEND PLANS

#### 1. Fine wine

The Talon Winery and Vineyards will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit McConnell Springs, the site where Lexington was named. The “Barrel Tasting for the Springs” will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The event will feature six participating wineries, and the cost is only \$2 for the day. All proceeds go to support development and improvements at McConnell Springs. For more information, call 971-9797.

#### 2. Pork party

Equus Run Vineyards will celebrate the beginning of spring with music, food and wine on Saturday as a part of its “Cork, Pork & Blues” celebration. The party will take place in the Tasting Barn, and will feature Patty Butcher and her acoustic blues combo. Tickets also include a tasting of six wines, including all three of the 2008 Derby wines. You must be 21 years of age to attend, and advance reservations are required. Tickets cost \$15 per person. E-mail admin@equusrunvineyards.com for reservations.

### FEATURES BRIEF

#### Stand-up show on campus tonight

Laughs won’t be hard to find tonight as UK welcomes comedian Jen Kober as a part of the Student Activities Board’s Laughs on the Lawn series.

Kober, known for her stand-up comedy routines, will perform at 7 p.m. at the Memorial Hall Amphitheater. Kober has performed with famous comedians Dane Cook, Chris Tucker, Wayne Brady and Carlos Mencia.

Kober has been featured on the TBS show “Stand Up or Sit Down Comedy Challenge,” and her stop at UK is part of a nationwide college tour.

## ontap | For the week of MARCH 20 - MARCH 26

### TONIGHT

Nile  
7:30 p.m., Headliners, Louisville.  
Tickets cost \$21.

People Noise w/ Idaho, Alaska  
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

### FRIDAY, March 27

Very Emergency w/ The Indicators and The Swift Retreat  
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Corey Smith  
9 p.m., Headliners, Louisville.  
Tickets cost \$16 in advance, \$19 at the door.

Sonny Landreth w/ Tony Furtdo  
8:30, The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$17 to \$20.

### SATURDAY, March 28

Monte Montgomery w/ Chris Campbell  
7 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$12.

Twiztid  
8 p.m., Headliners, Louisville.  
Tickets cost \$21.

Xiu Xiu w/ Why? and Thao Nguyen & the Get Down Stay Down

9:30, The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$10.

Trampled by Turtles w/ Velvet Water  
10 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$6.

### SUNDAY, March 29

Cabin w/ Seabird and Watson Park  
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

### MONDAY, March 30

Sonsset Down  
7:30 p.m., Headliners, Louisville.  
Tickets cost \$9 in advance, \$10 at the door.

Delta Spirit w/ Port O’Brien  
8:30, The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$17 to \$20.

### TUESDAY, March 31

Devildriver  
8 p.m., Headliners, Louisville.  
Tickets cost \$18.

### WEDNESDAY, April 1

Shooter Jennings w/ Eddie Spaghetti  
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door.

Grand Buffet w/ DJ E-Mpirical  
9:30 p.m., The Southgate House, Newport. Tickets cost \$8.

COMPILED BY FEATURES EDITOR EMILY COVERT

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# Study links big-belly weight to dementia

By Barbara Anderson  
McClatchy Newspapers

FRESNO, Calif. — Going into middle age with a big belly could set the wheels in motion for dementia in later life, a new study says.

Scientists have known for some time that belly size is associated with an increased risk for diabetes, stroke and heart disease, but this is the first study to show a connection between mid-life abdominal fat and dementia.

"People need to be concerned not only about their weight, but where they carry their weight in mid-life," said Rachel Whitmer, a research scientist at the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research in Oakland, Calif., and lead researcher of the study.

"The person who carries weight around the belly is at greater risk than the person carrying it around the hips," she said.

Kaiser researchers studied 6,583 men and women in Northern California who had had their belly-fat density measured when they were ages 40 to 45. Some 36 years later, 16 percent had been diagnosed with dementia.

Dementia can be caused by a number of disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, that affect the brain. On average, it affects 13.9 percent of the American population, according to a National Institute of Health study.

The study found the risk for developing dementia was 2.3 times greater for men and women who were overweight and who had a large belly than for those with a normal weight and belly size.

The chance of developing dementia was 3.6 times greater for people who were both obese and had large bellies than people with normal weight and belly sizes.

Even people of normal weight overall, but who had large bellies, were at greater risk — almost two times higher — than those of normal weight without abdominal fat.

The study was published in yesterday's March 26 online issue of Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

The study controlled for high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes, Whitmer said. "And we still found an indepen-

dent effect of belly size on dementia."

Researchers measured the distance from the back to the upper abdomen, midway between the top of the pelvis and the bottom of the ribs, to determine belly fat.

The question remains as to how belly fat affects the brain, Whitmer said. But it is known that belly fat — the fat that wraps around organs — is "a lively fat, a very toxic fat, and it secretes a lot of substances," she said.

More research also needs to be done to determine if reducing belly size can lower the risk factor for dementia, Whitmer said. Researchers don't know if the study participants who had large bellies in their 40s lost the fat before developing dementia in their 70s, she said.

But other studies have found a positive effect on high cholesterol and fasting glucose levels with a smaller belly size, Whitmer said.

Where someone carries weight is genetically determined, Whitmer said. But there is good news for people who have big bellies.

Belly fat is easier to lose than other fat, Whitmer said. "You can get rid of it with moderate exercise and diet," she said. "This is a modifiable risk factor for people in mid-life."

Kathy Daly, 43, of Madera, Calif., said belly fat was her biggest "trouble spot" before she dropped 80 pounds in the past three years. Daly didn't know about an increased risk of dementia when she decided to lose weight. "I had turned 40 and was concerned about my health," she said.

But now that she's heard about the Kaiser study, she has more motivation to keep "on the path that I'm on," she said.

Two of Daly's aunts on the maternal side of her family suffered from dementia before their deaths. Both her aunts were overweight. "It was very sad. You saw someone you knew a certain way and saw their brain deteriorate," she said.

Kaiser researchers found those most likely to have big bellies were non-whites, smokers, people with high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes and those with less than a high school level of education.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama addresses a crowd gathered for a town hall meeting at the Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, N.C., yesterday.  
SHAWN ROCCO  
RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER

# Clinton too tied to status quo, Obama says

By Rob Christiansen  
McClatchy Newspapers

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Sen. Barack Obama said yesterday that his chief rival, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton was too closely tied to the Washington status quo to bring about change.

"She takes more money from lobbyists and special interests than any candidate including John McCain," Obama told about 2,400 people at a town hall meeting in War Memorial Auditorium. "That shows she doesn't have the sense that things need to change in Washington."

During a 90-minute speech and question and answer session, Obama criticized McCain's stance on the housing crisis, talked about his Christian faith, and sought to downplay the provocative comments of his former pastor.

This was Obama's second trip to North Carolina in the last week, and it underscored the intensifying pace of the May 6 Democratic presidential primary. Clinton will make a campaign swing tomorrow through Wake County, Fayetteville and Winston-Salem. Her husband, former President Bill Clinton will tour the western part of the state on Friday, and their daughter Chelsea Clinton is expected to attend a Young Democrats Club meeting Saturday at the Sheraton Imperial in Durham.

Speaking before a crowd that included many college students and had the atmosphere of a pep rally, Obama

called Clinton "a smart and very capable person."

But he also warned the Democrats have to be careful that "the tone" of the Democratic campaign won't become so negative that it help Republicans in the fall.

But Obama didn't spare any criticism of McCain, the Arizona senator and presumptive Republican nominee.

In a speech Monday in California, McCain warned against government overreaction to the mortgage crisis and market turmoil saying that it is not the duty of the taxpayers to bail out big banks or small borrowers who act irresponsibly.

Obama called McCain's response "sit back and watch."

"John McCain has admitted he doesn't understand the economy as well as he should and yesterday he proved it in giving a speech on the housing crisis," Obama said.

"In his entire speech yesterday, he offered not one policy, not one idea, not one bit of relief to the nearly 35,000 North Carolinians who were forced to foreclose on their dreams in the last three months."

The McCain campaign called Obama's comments "old attack and smear tactics."

"Barack Obama's diagnosis for our housing market is clearly what Barack Obama knows best — raise taxes on hardworking Americans and give government a prescription to spend," said McCain spokesman Tucker Bounds.

During a question and answer peri-

od, Obama was asked by a person identifying himself as a student at a Christian college about his religious beliefs.

"I'm a Christian," Obama said. "What that means for me is that I believe Jesus Christ died for my sins. Through his grace and his mercy and his power, through him I can achieve everlasting life."

Obama also said he believed in a gospel where it mattered what you did on earth including helping the poor, and being a good steward of the earth.

He said he believed that many Jews and Muslims and non-believers are good people whose beliefs should be respected.

Obama said he hoped people would not be distracted from the important issues by a few "stupid" comments made by his former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

Wright's harsh condemnation of the United States for its treatment of blacks and incendiary charges of white racism, have plagued Obama, prompting him last week to make a major speech on race relations.

"This is somebody that was preaching three sermons at least a week for 30 years and it got boiled down to a half-minute sound clip and just played over and over and over again, partly because it spoke to some of the racial divisions we have in this country," Obama said.

He said everyone is welcome in his Chicago church and noted that the United Church of Christ denomination to which he belongs is more than 90 percent white.

# U.S. airstrike in Iraq reportedly causes 60 casualties

By Leila Fadel  
McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD — U.S. aircraft supporting an Iraqi government offensive against Shiite Muslim militias bombed suspected militia positions south of Baghdad amid intense fighting yesterday in parts of the Iraqi capital and in the southern port city of Basra, Iraqi police said.

Spokesman Muthanna Ahmed of the Babil province police said 60 people had been hit but that he couldn't give a breakdown of dead and wounded. The U.S. military was looking into the report but couldn't confirm it yesterday evening.

U.S. forces also joined Iraqi troops in Baghdad to fight radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia, and police said that at least 20 people had been killed in the Sadr City neighborhood, a stronghold of al-Sadr's backers.

Maj. Gen. Kevin Bergner, an American military spokesman in Baghdad, described the offensive as an Iraqi government initiative that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki planned and carried out and that was directed at criminals, not at the Mahdi Army.

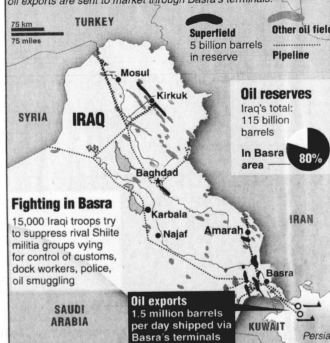
"This is not a battle against the Jaish al-Mahdi ("Mahdi Army" in Arabic), nor is it a proxy war between the United States and Iran," Bergner said. "It is the government of Iraq taking the necessary action to deal with criminals on the streets."

Fighting intensified yesterday in Basra, Iraq's principal port and the center of the oil industry, and both sides traded ultimatums. Al-Maliki, who directed the operation, demanded that Shiite militias there surrender their weapons to government forces within 72 hours. Al-Sadr demanded in turn that al-Maliki leave Basra.

With barely functioning hospitals and people holed up in their homes, it was unclear how many people had died in Basra. According to health ministry officials there, at least 33 people had been killed and 150 had been wounded in the fighting.

## Basra key to Iraq oil exports

Many of Iraq's oil fields are near Basra, and nearly all of the nation's oil exports are sent to market through Basra's terminals.



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Source: AP, Guardian.co.uk, Reuters, UPI, New York Times  
Graphic: Tim Gohren, Jack Trause

The battle for control of Basra and for parts of Baghdad carries high stakes for al-Maliki and his American backers. If it's successful, the offensive could eliminate or seriously weaken al-Sadr's forces, which until he declared a cease-fire last August were a leading cause of violence against Iraqi Sunni Muslims and American forces.

If the offensive stalls or the violence continues to spread, however, al-Maliki's government could be severely weakened, and any hopes the Bush administration has of withdrawing more U.S. forces from Iraq could be dashed.

In the south, the fighting yesterday spread to Kut as al-Maliki sent forces from Karbala to supplement the 15,000 troops he already had. U.S. air support attacked targets on major roadways and the homes of suspected weapons smugglers, said Abdel Kareem Khalaf, a spokesman for the Ministry of Interior.

In the southern holy city of Najaf, where violence has been

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# Owners offer cheap shares of race horse to fellow students

By Laura Popper  
lpopper@kykernel.com

With millions of dollars spent at thoroughbred horse sales, it can be difficult for the average college student to afford such a risky investment.

However, share ownership of thoroughbred racehorses provides the opportunity to experience what it is like to own a racehorse for those with a stricter income.

"It's an expensive business and hobby," said agricultural economics senior Billy Ajello. "The best way financially is if it is in partnerships amongst a whole bunch of people or just a couple people."

This spring, Ajello and his friend Sean Feld, an agricultural economics junior, are providing UK students and the public with this opportunity. They are selling shares in their racehorse, Kentucky Soldierboy, helping students experience — at least a little — ownership in horse racing.

"It's enough to see the excitement of the ownership side instead of just going to Keeneland to drink beer, go out with friends and have a good time," Ajello said. "It's a way to spend money and have some fun with it."

Ajello said he hopes to race the horse at Keeneland next month and Feld has even higher hopes.

"I hope we go to the (Kentucky) Derby," Feld said. "That's everyone's dream."

Gibson Wilhite, an equine man-



ELLIOTT HESS / STAFF  
Billy Ajello, left, and Sean Feld are selling shares of their horse, Kentucky Soldierboy, to interested students. Owning shares rather than an entire horse cuts down on the cost. The duo purchased Kentucky Soldierboy in October and hope to race him next month at Keeneland.

agement sophomore, said he would be interested in purchasing a share because it means investing less money.

"Buying shares in horses are a good thing because they give people the opportunity who do not have a lot of

money to still have the dream, to own a horse that is in the winner's circle," said Wilhite, who owns horses with his father.

Shares of the horse can be purchased before Kentucky Soldierboy's first race at \$250 for .5 percent share,

according to the horse's group on Facebook.com.

Ajello and Feld bought the horse in October at the Fasig-Tipton yearlings sale in Lexington. They purchased the horse for \$5,500, Ajello said, as members of Bongo Racing

Stables, which Feld's family is a part of.

Ajello and Feld had high hopes for the colt from first sight.

"I looked to him and he was really racey-looking," Ajello said. "He was already galloping with the right mindset of a racehorse."

Kentuckysoldierboy is out of Offensive Threat and sired by Tumblebrutus, who is a full brother of Giant's Causeway, the 2000 Europe Horse of the Year.

The dark bay colt was unnamed before the sale. The song "Crank Dat (Souja Boy)" by Souja Boy Telem was on the radio at the time, and from there, Ajello and Feld knew that they had a perfect name. Unable to get copyright permission to use the same spelling from the song, the guys settled on Kentuckysoldierboy.

The two-year-old Kentucky Soldierboy has yet to race. The horse is training in Ocala, Fla. He will be trained by Paul McGee, a family friend of Feld's and the trainer of Mitigation, the recent three-year-old winner at the Hansel Stakes at Turfway Park in Florence, Ky.

Feld will be hosting, "Betting for Beginners," a handicapping seminar to help students learn about betting. It will be April 3 at 7 p.m. in the W.T. Young Library auditorium.

For more information on Kentucky Soldierboy or to buy shares, visit the stable's Web site ([www.bongoracing.com](http://www.bongoracing.com)) or e-mail Feld at [seanmfeld@uky.edu](mailto:seanmfeld@uky.edu).

# Shuttle Endeavour returns to Earth

By Phil Long  
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — Seven astronauts aboard the space shuttle Endeavour made a safe, though late, return to the Kennedy Space Center yesterday.

Although clouds around the space center kept Miami Palm to High graduate Dominic Gorie and his crew in space for about two hours longer than planned, the shuttle touched down at 8:39 p.m.

Even as the astronauts made their way home, NASA workers were busy reusing the shuttle Discovery for a May 25 launch and another International Space

Station construction job.

Endeavour's 16-day construction mission to the International Space Station included five space walks and one of the more complex installations astronauts have handled.

"It has been highly successful," said NASA spokesperson Andrea Thomas. "We are very pleased."

It was also the longest mission to the space station.

During the mission, astronauts installed a major piece of robotic equipment on the outside of the International Space Station. The Canadian-built robot will do some types of chores that have been done by humans

in the past. Astronauts also delivered the first segment of a Japanese laboratory, a closet-size room for scientists to use for future experiments.

The astronauts tested a caulk-like paste to see if it could be used for emergency repair of damaged heat resistant thermal tiles should one be gouged by debris during blast off.

The tiles are essential to keep hot gases from penetrating the shuttle during its fiery reentry to the earth's atmosphere.

Besides Gorie, the crew included pilot Gregory B. Johnson; U.S. astronaut Rick Linnehan; Robert L. Behnken and Mike Foreman, as well as Japanese as-

tronaut Takao Doi and French astronaut Leopold Eyharts, who is returning from a stint on the space station.

As the astronauts headed home, work was already under way for the May 25 launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery.

The huge external tank for Discovery's mission to the space station arrived at the Kennedy Space Center Wednesday, Thomas said.

After the May shuttle launch, there are three others scheduled for this year: Aug. 28, Oct. 16 and Dec. 4.

People may watch the shuttle landing at NASA's Web site ([www.nasa.gov/ntv](http://www.nasa.gov/ntv)).

## ELECTIONS

Continued from page 1

senior and a volunteer from the Muslim Student Association. Volunteers from non-SG organizations are running the polling locations.

The higher turnout in the Classroom Building might be due to the candidates campaigning outside during the day, Wallace said. Campaigning is not allowed within 25 feet of the polling locations, according to SG regulation, but many candidates stood outside the building today encouraging students to go inside and vote.

The candidates might have some affect on getting more voters to the polls, but many are still voting from home, said Tyler Reilford, a business sophomore.

Reilford said he voted online, but the presence of the candidates on campus helped educate him about their platforms.

"I think people are more likely to vote from home," he said. "People should vote if they know about the candidates, and I found out by the people campaigning on campus."

The link to the voting Web site was sent in a campus wide e-mail yesterday and can be found on the SG Web site ([www.aksqa.org](http://www.aksqa.org)).

# Florida legislature apologizes for 'shameful' history of slavery

By Marc Caputo  
McClatchy Newspapers

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida Legislature issued an apology yesterday for the state's "shameful" history in enslaving black people and passing laws that called for savage lashings and even the nailing of their ears to posts for crimes like burglary.

"The Legislature expresses its profound regret for Florida's role in sanctioning and perpetuating involuntary servitude upon generations of African slaves," said the resolution, sponsored by black lawmakers.

Democratic Sens. Larcenia Bullard of Miami and Arthenia Joyner of Tampa sobbed during the reading of the resolution and the recounting of the slave codes passed by the Territorial Council in 1822 and struck down in 1868 — three years after the Civil War ended.

"I knew the facts, but to hear it put in those terms. I just fell apart," Joyner said. Said Bullard: "I felt a pain that wouldn't go away."

After the measure passed on a voice vote without opposition in the Senate, where President Ken Pruitt wanted no discussion or recorded vote, the House did the same. House Speaker Marco Rubio thanked both Pruitt and the black caucus for bringing up the resolution.

The measure stops short of calling for reparations for descendants of slaves, though Republican Gov. Charlie Crist said after the vote that he was open to the idea "if we can determine dependency, certainly."

Crist, who attended the floor vote, said, "Florida is sorry for the past transgressions and unfair treatment and in some cases just gross inequity as it exists toward members of the African-American community."

Are there still inequities today, considering that about half the state's prison population of 96,000 is black, while only about 16 percent of the state's total population is black?

"That's hard to determine. You have to analyze these on a case-by-case basis," Crist said.

"Whether or not there have been injustices in a case based upon race must be determined by the facts of that case."

Rep. Joseph Gibbons, a Democrat, said the incarceration rate "is a vestige of slavery ... When you don't have opportunities, you turn to other things ... you get frustrated and don't want to participate in the system."

He said fellow black lawmakers "aren't going to fall into that trap" about reparations because the resolution wasn't "about people wanting to get paid."

Legislators in Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia have recently issued formal apologies for slavery, and New Jersey became the first northern state to apologize in January, according to The Associated Press.

The curator of Florida's historical Capitol, former state house clerk John Phelps, read legislators a history of the slave codes in Florida and listed statistics showing the importance and brutality of the slavery in the state.

Phelps said that, according to an 1855 Senate journal, the state had nearly 111,000 residents, 44 percent black. And of Florida's \$49 million in property value at the time, 55 percent was in slaves.

Phelps singled out a letter written by Gov. Richard Keith Call to a Northerner in the hopes of explaining the Southern mindset over slavery to avert the Civil War.

Of blacks, Call wrote: "Here was an animal, in the form of a man, possessing the greatest physical power and the greatest capacity for labor and endurance... A wild barbarian, to be tamed and civilized by the discipline of slavery."

Call was a personal aide to future President Andrew Jackson when the general launched the Seminole Wars and made Florida a territory, in part to en-

sure that slaves escaping from Georgia had no safe haven to the south.

Phelps ticked off the various lashings — 39 in some cases and a lethal 100 in others — that slaves would suffer for being accused of robbery, burglary or for simply walking around with a pass from his or her white master. Those convicted of rebellion were executed. Seven slaves together without a white person couldn't travel public roads. Slaves who gave false testimony could have their ears nailed to posts and were whipped publicly.

Jacksonville Sen. Jim King, a Republican and past Senate president, said he didn't know about the specific horrors and supported the resolution. But he acknowledged that some lawmakers might be uncomfortable with the resolution because it could lead other groups to push for reparations.

"What about the American Indians? They were killed and shoved into a corner of places like Oklahoma," King said. "What about the treatment of Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II?"

For many, the resolution is "too little, too late. But it's better than not recognizing at all that black slaves built Florida," said Marvin Dunn, retired psychology professor and researcher of black history in Florida.

Dunn said the state "wouldn't dare" approve reparations that would put dollars into black residents' bank accounts. Such a move would be unwieldy and unrealistic, he said.

Adora Obi Nweze, president of the Florida NAACP, said she embraced the resolution as a step that needed to be taken.

"Those who suffered are not here to hear the words," she said. But "the descendants of those who were enslaved deserve to hear the words uttered that it did exist."

(McClatchy correspondent Andrea Robinson contributed to this report.)

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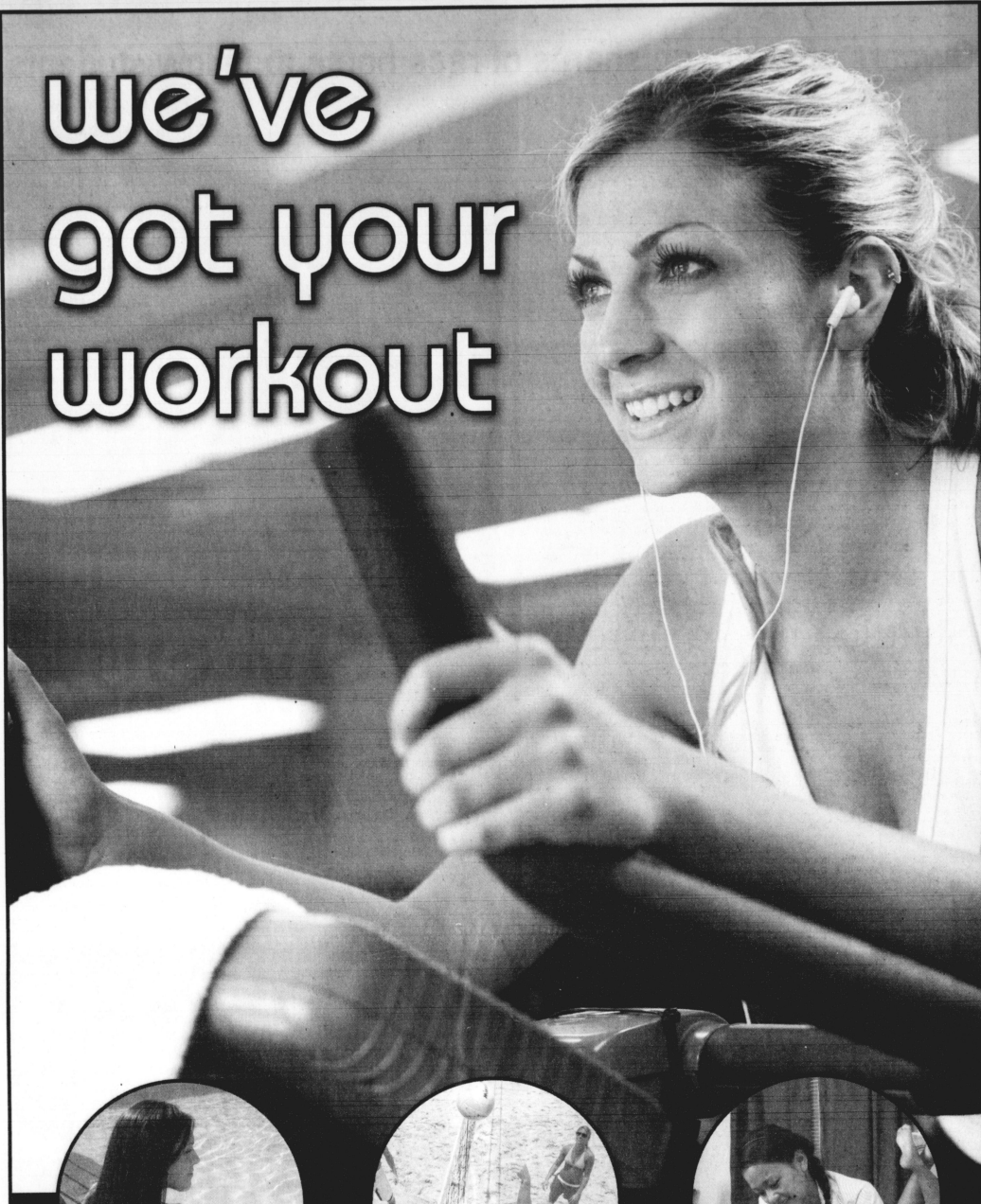
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# SPORTS

Matthew George  
Asst. Sports Editor  
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## Mahoney's 30 points fuel win; Elliott injured

By James Pennington  
jpennington@kykernel.com

The names on the front of the jerseys in a third-round game of the Women's National Invitational Tournament last night were UK and James Madison University. But it was the names on the back of two particular jerseys on which last night's game hinged: Mahoney and Young.

Despite the double-double performance of James Madison senior guard Tamera Young — 28 points and 17 rebounds — UK rode its senior guard Samantha Mahoney, who netted a career-high 30 points, to a victory over the Dukes 84-76. The win sends the Cats to the WNIT quarterfinals.

"Samantha played like a senior who didn't want this to be her last game," UK head coach Matthew Mitchell said. "She had full understanding of tonight's situation, and she was not going to be denied."

Down by one point with 7:54 left in the game, senior center Sarah Elliott went down with a knee injury as she was battling for position underneath the basket. Elliott menaced in pain on the floor for several minutes before being helped to a seat on the bench.

The Cats rallied around their injured teammate. UK's first points after Elliott's injury came by way of a three-point play from junior center Eleia Roddy — Elliott's backup. Roddy's tough play ignited the emotion of her teammates, her coaches and the 1,703 fans at Memorial Coliseum, and the Cats rode the wave of energy and never looked back.

"I knew that I had to step up," Roddy said. "But my mindset didn't change when Sarah Elliott went out. Before she went out, I knew we had to win the game and when she went out, I knew we still had to win. I'm glad I could provide the spark for the team."

Although the Cats emerged with an eight-point victory, the Dukes stayed close until the final buzzer. UK sealed the win by hitting 18-of-25 second-half free throws.

From the opening tip, Young scored the first basket of the game, a jumper just 28 seconds



After a 84-76 win over James Madison University, the Cats celebrated advancing on to the quarter finals of the WNIT tournament last night in Memorial Coliseum.

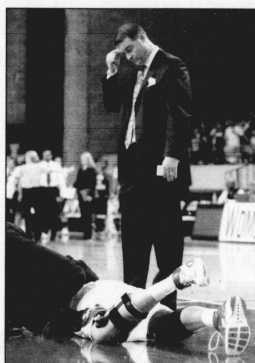
after the opening tip. But the Cats buckled down and ran off eight straight points to give themselves an early advantage.

The Dukes fought to get back within striking distance. Once James Madison got within two points, the Cats' interior defense and red-hot offense sparked a swift 12-2 run. With 8:39 left until intermission, UK held a 30-18 lead, their largest of the game.

However, the Dukes did not fade away. Freshman guard Dawn Evans hit consecutive 3-pointers to cut her team's deficit in half, 30-24 with 5:57 remaining in the first half. The two squads traded blows until halftime, and the Cats hit the locker room with a five-point advantage, 37-32.

When the second half began, Young immediately put her team on her shoulders. In the first 20 seconds, she grabbed one of her game-high 17 rebounds, drew a foul and hit two free throws on the ensuing possession. Mahoney answered with consecutive baskets of her own, but James Madison rallied and scored 11 unanswered points to take a 45-42 lead with 1:42 left.

"Our players showed a lot of toughness tonight," Mitchell said. "We knew this was a good



Head coach Matthew Mitchell holds his head after senior center Sarah Elliott went down with a knee injury at the second half of the game over James Madison University.

ED MATTHEWS  
STAFF

team and when they took the lead, we just held it together."

Facing a 52-46 deficit, Mitchell called a timeout with 13 minutes left to let his team regroup. Out of the timeout, the Cats quickly clawed their way back to within one point. It was at that point that Elliott suffered her knee injury.

The Cats sealed their victory

by taking charge of the contest with a 15-6 run to get the game out of the Dukes' reach.

The next round of the tournament will be another home game for the Cats, where they will play Marquette.

"There's no substitute for tournament basketball," Mitchell said. "It's tremendous experience for all of our players."

### SPORTS BRIEF

#### Comeback falls short against U of L

Trailing 5-2 in her at bat, sophomore shortstop Molly Johnson belted a two-run home run that brought the UK softball team within one run against inter-state rival Louisville. But the Cats' late-game rally fell just short, as Cardinal reliever Kristen Wadwell shut the door on the comeback and UK fell 5-4 in Louisville yesterday.

The loss was the Cats' second of the year against the Cards, who also defeated UK 6-1 in Lexington on March 5.

Louisville scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to jump out to a 3-0 advantage. The Cats (13-14, 1-5 Southeastern Conference) pushed a run across in the top of the fifth, but a two-run home run from Kassie Stanfill in the bottom of the inning pushed the Cardinal lead to its apex at 5-1.

Johnson finished 2-for-3 with both RBIs coming off her seventh-inning home run. Freshman center fielder Megan Aull was 1-for-3 with an RBI double.

Sophomore Amber Matousek pitched all six innings for UK, giving up eight hits and two walks. Only two of the five runs scored against her yesterday were earned.

The Cats host South Carolina for a three-game series this weekend.

## Shaq dreams of being the Magic's GM, sheriff

By Tim Povtak  
The Orlando Sentinel

BOSTON — Center Shaquille O'Neal was traded from the Miami Heat to the Phoenix Suns last month, but the Orlando Magic — the team with whom he started his high-profile career — never seem far from his thoughts.

Yesterday was no exception. O'Neal, who was in Boston preparing to play the Celtics last

night, said after a morning practice that he hopes to take over management of the Orlando Magic when he retires as a player following the 2009-10 season.

He also expects to bring Grant Hill — former Magic player and current teammate with the Suns — along to help him.

"Grant will be the team president — he's a bright guy — and I'll be the general manager,"

O'Neal said. "I'm serious. They need me down there with the new arena coming. Grant and I are coming to do the job."

O'Neal has talked a few times during the years of returning to Orlando to play — although he said now he will finish his career in Phoenix — and also of returning eventually to become the Orange County Sheriff.

O'Neal has kept a home in the Orlando area since joining

the Magic as the No. 1 pick of the 1992 draft out of LSU. He still considers Central Florida his home. He left as a free agent for the Los Angeles Lakers in 1996, but he always has returned during the NBA offseason.

He has two full seasons remaining on his contract, paying him \$20 million each year. In the past, he has talked about wanting to be part of an ownership group in Orlando, but he has scuttled those plans.

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## New leaders expected to fill seniors' void

By Eric Lindsey  
elindsay@kykernel.com

To the typical fan, it appeared little had changed for Dicky Lyons Jr. as he lined up yesterday for the first day of spring practice.

Lyons, a junior wide receiver, broke from the huddle and trotted across the freshly mowed grass at the Nutter Training Facility and set himself in the slot position, a place he has become familiar with during his three seasons at UK.

Lyons listened to the shouts of his quarterback, awaiting the snap. But the calls he was hearing were not from the calm, collected quarterback he has been accustomed to in past seasons.

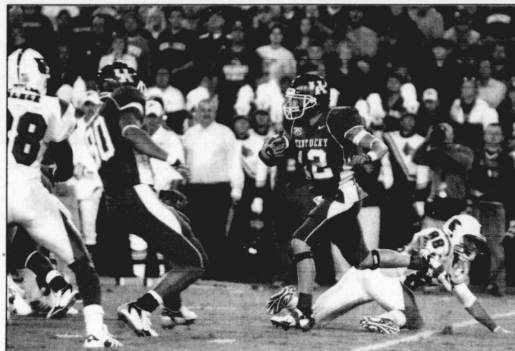
The realization finally hit Lyons — Andre Woodson is gone.

Woodson and a bevy of last season's senior leaders, like linebacker Wesley Woodyard, wide receiver Keenan Burton and tight end Jacob Tamme, are not practicing in the spring for the first time in four, and for some, five years. With their absences, it is up to veterans like Lyons and junior free safety Marcus McClinton to keep the budding program moving in the right direction.

"It's different," McClinton said. "It's sort of like everyone moved on and now I'm the old guy. It feels kind of funny because you're the only person your age — me and Dicky — and if you're not a leader, you're forced to be a leader. You're in a position where you have to produce and you have to set an example."

McClinton, Lyons and sophomore defensive end Jeremy Jarnon — who will miss at least the first two weeks of spring practice after undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery — will be expected to fill the leadership void the seniors left.

The Cats' new leaders say they are ready to take on the



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF  
Senior-to-be Dicky Lyons Jr. avoids a would-be tackler in UK's 40-34 win over Louisville on Sept. 19. The wide receiver caught four passes for 33 yards against the Cardinals.

new responsibilities. McClinton, who endured a tough freshman year before winning back-to-back bowl games the last two seasons, said he understands what it takes to keep the program progressing.

"They passed (the torch) on to us, because when they were out doing their thing, we were right next to them helping them win games," he said. "They sort of passed it on to us and left it up to us to finish it off."

Head coach Rich Brooks is confident his team will build on past seasons, saying this year's team is the most athletic he has ever had. Brooks did admit, though, that athleticism does not always translate into production.

"Obviously, there is a bigger void from this senior class than there has been in recent years," Brooks said. "In the same token, it's an exciting time for me as a coach knowing that there are

people out there who are capable of replacing those guys, and I'm anxious to move forward with that process."

For that process to be successful, guys like Lyons will be counted on heavily to mentor some of the younger players, especially sophomore wide out Kyrus Lanxter and redshirt freshman wide out Anthony Mosley, who will be counted on to fill the shoes of the departed Burton and Steve Johnson.

"It's going to take a lot of effort on my part, and I'm ready to step up," Lyons said. "The last couple of years we didn't have to coach anybody because we all knew what we were doing. Now, (offensive coordinator) Joker (Phillips) is spending a little bit more time with the younger guys, but they're willing to work hard and work hard at it."

And of course, two of the younger guys that will be

counted on heavily this upcoming season are freshman Mike Hartline and junior Curtis Pulley, both of whom will be competing for the starting quarterback role.

Brooks addressed the quarterback situation yesterday at a news conference, saying it is too early to tell who will be the starter in the fall. Brooks said he expects the battle to be competitive, and added freshman Will Fidler to the list of possible starters after a good first day of practice.

No matter who starts under center this season, the Cats realize there is pressure to make it to a third straight bowl. Even though the first game is more than five months away, McClinton is confident UK will not let the team's recent success die on the shoulders of its new leadership.

"We don't want to lose this high," he said.

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T George Harris: Magazine editor and writer

Nanci Davidson, publisher, "Cooking Pleasures" magazine

Kenneth Vaughn, SPHR, Staffing & Diversity Director, Emmis Communications

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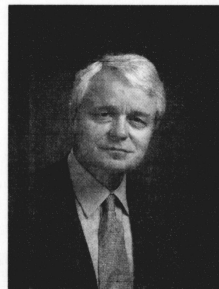
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## A-Rod says he won't address accusations in Canseco's book

By Kat O'Brien  
Newsday

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez has no plans to waste time worrying about what Jose Canseco said about him in Canseco's new book, "Vindicated."

Addressing a pack of reporters for the first time since Canseco's allegations came out (Rodriguez spoke to Newsday and several others Tuesday), Rodriguez responded to the first question about Canseco yesterday by saying: "I'm excited about playing baseball."

When pressed as to whether he thought Canseco's accusations could be a distraction, Rodriguez said: "It's over as far as I'm concerned."

In Canseco's book, he claimed to have introduced Rodriguez to a "known steroids supplier." He also claimed that Rodriguez tried to hook up with Canseco's then-wife, Jessica.

"Guys, anything with baseball I would love to talk about," Rodriguez said. "Absolutely nothing else on that matter."

Both general manager Brian Cashman and manager Joe Girardi said they were not concerned that this matter would be a distraction to Rodriguez. Girardi said he had no plans to speak with Rodriguez about the Canseco allegations. Cashman said he had briefly spoken to him about it. "I took his temperature," said Cashman, "and he said all good."

That was after the Yankees' exhibition game against the Phillies. But yesterday morning, Cashman said, "I've got a lot of other things to be worried about other than Alex Rodriguez, to be honest. You would like to think



The New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez smiles and signals to the Kansas Royals dugout after walking in the second inning at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 8, 2007.

JOHN SLEEZER  
KANSAS CITY STAR

he's the least of our worries."

On Tuesday, Rodriguez talked about how he is trying not to take things personally anymore.

But really, allegations from Canseco, who readily admitted that he hates Rodriguez, are low on the distraction-level meter for Rodriguez.

Last year alone, he dealt with an assortment of off-field controversies, including tabloid pictures taken of him with a woman other than his wife, the "ha" play in Toronto, and the opt-out clause that hung over him all season.

Girardi has not spent as much time around Rodriguez as Cashman. However, he did know Rodriguez as the Yankees' bench coach in 2005. And from what Girardi has seen of his third baseman this spring, he believes Rodriguez has learned how to better separate his off-field life from baseball.

"I think he's more relaxed and I think he understands his surroundings better now," Girardi said. "I've always felt that it takes players a little bit

of time to figure out New York. I found it to be a wonderful place to play and I loved it. But it takes time — some players, it takes longer than others. Once you figure it out, you realize it's an awesome place to play."

Rodriguez has been having an excellent spring as he prepares to defend his AL MVP award. He is batting .432 (16-for-37) with three homers, eight RBIs and 11 runs scored. He reiterated yesterday that he feels great and is ready for the season to start.

Before yesterday's game, Rodriguez put on an impressive display in batting practice. Even the mostly pro-Phillies crowd oohed and aahed over a couple of long home runs, one of which sailed right over the top of the tiki bar beyond the leftfield wall.

"B.P. I'm pretty impressive," Rodriguez said with a laugh.

Spring training, Girardi said, has just been "Alex being Alex." He does a lot of things that most of us just dream about."

## McCain rejects Bush's foreign-policy tactics, but embraces his goals

By Matt Stearns  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — In a major speech, Sen. John McCain distanced himself yesterday from President Bush's foreign-policy tactics but embraced Bush's foreign-policy goals.

In a nod to foreign-policy realists, McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, called for the United States to practice "international good citizenship" and reconnect with allies weary of Bush's go-it-alone doctrine. But, embracing neo-conservative thinking, he reiterated his support for the Iraq war and made clear that he would, as president, remain committed to an activist foreign policy bent on promoting democracy and confronting Islamic extremists.

"I am an idealist," McCain said, adding later that he was "a realistic idealist." In one of the few new proposals in the speech, McCain called for U.S.-led worldwide reduction in nuclear arms: "We do not need all the weapons currently in our arsenal." He offered no specifics.

Otherwise, the speech broke little ground on policy. McCain has previously proposed, for example, negotiating a successor to the Kyoto treaty on climate change and closing the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay.

The address came at a time

when Democrats are honing a campaign theme that paints a McCain presidency as a third term for the unpopular Bush.

Howard Dean, the Democratic National Committee chairman, continued the narrative Wednesday by saying that McCain's "new appreciation for diplomacy has no credibility after he mimicked President Bush's misleading case for a unilateral war of choice when it mattered most. Why should the American people now trust John McCain to offer anything more than four more years of President Bush's reckless economic policies and failed foreign policy?"

In an effort to counter that line of attack, McCain declared that "the United States cannot lead by virtue of its power alone."

"We must also lead by attracting others to our cause, by demonstrating once again the virtues of freedom and democracy, by defending the rules of international civilized society and by creating the new international institutions necessary to advance the peace and freedoms we cherish," McCain said. He added that "mutual respect and trust" would be at the heart of his relationships with U.S. allies: "We need to listen to the views and respect the collective will of our democratic allies."

Other aspects of the speech seemed designed to assuage the

neo-conservative wing of Republican foreign-policy thinking: McCain challenged "a revisionist Russia" and said that the country should be kicked out of the Group of Eight industrialized democracies in favor of Brazil and India.

He also called again for a "League of Democracies" that would work — and, if necessary, fight — for peace and freedom when other international institutions will not. He seemed to embrace the Bush doctrine of pre-emptive war even as he said, "I detest war..."

"Passive defense alone cannot protect us," McCain said. "We must also have an aggressive strategy of confronting and rooting out the terrorists wherever they seek to operate and deny them their bases in failed or failing states."

Ivan Eland, a foreign-policy analyst at the libertarian-leaning Independent Institute, said the speech revealed McCain to be "a softer, gentler neo-conservative."

"The only difference between Wilsonian liberals and neo-conservatives is Wilsonian liberals talk about international institutions and neo-conservatives talk about national greatness," Eland said. "He's trying to go somewhere between those two on the interventionist spectrum. He recognizes Bush got into trouble by doing things unilaterally."

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### ■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

## Indian president's visit a good model for future events

Former Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's visit to UK didn't just generate buzz for a few days — it's also going to leave a lasting impact on campus.

UK announced Monday night that it would be creating a new Center of Excellence for Indian Studies to focus on research and instruction about Indian business, language and religion. The center would get financial support from a newly established endowment fund named after Kalam, which would also fund two endowed professorships in the Gatton College of Business and Economics.

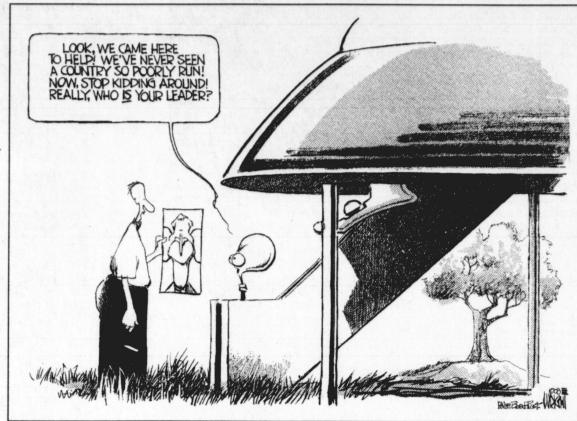
The creation of the new research center is a light at the end of the tunnel for UK, which is currently stuck with a freeze on hiring and other restrictions as a result of the state budget slowdown. In a time when UK's quests for top-20 status and diversity across the campus seem at a standstill due to economic problems, Kalam's endowment fund is a surprise step in the right direction for

achieving these important goals.

As if the endowment and center that have resulted from UK's collaboration with Kalam are not enough reason to support further interactions with world leaders, the large crowd of students anxious to meet and listen to Kalam is proof of the success of this cross-cultural relationship.

UK should continue to try to bring in international leaders, not only to work toward top-20 and diversity goals, but also because learning and interacting with other cultures is an essential part of a rounded liberal arts education.

Leaders like Kalam who see past superficial differences and are able to form connections between such distant places as Kentucky and India are ideal for enlightening students and faculty about other cultures. Kalam has a plan to make India a fully developed nation, and through his collaboration with UK, he will be able to spread his vision as far as the bluegrass.



DON WRIGHT, The Palm Beach Post

## So-called 'informed consent' laws treat women like they're children

Dancers in Virginia strip clubs are now, once again, being targeted by law to wear pasties. For those of us who



KATHRYN HOGG  
Guest columnist

versed in exotic under-things, this means that they have to

wear small, adhesive patches to cover their nipples. Nipples, apparently, are very dangerous things, and Virginians have Rep. John Cosgrove to thank for protecting them from this horrible threat, according to the Washington Times.

Now Virginia consumers don't have to worry that when they go to a strip club, they might see an entire exposed breast! The threat of the female nipple can be reduced to a yellow alert.

When you think about it, though, aren't exposed breasts exactly what consumers who go to strip clubs are paying to see? Cosgrove must not think he's protecting the patrons, but the dancers. Otherwise, he'd be introducing legislation requiring that infants be blindfolded when they're breastfed.

If Cosgrove sees female strippers as exploited women, his action does little to actually help them. It affects all strippers, not just the ones who are there because they have little alternative. And it reduces the problem of exploitation within the sex industry to the visibility of a nipple, which is an irresponsible oversimplification of the issue.

To really help the women that are only in the sex industry as a result of exploitation, he could work to reduce the kind of sexism that keeps women from some jobs, and work on a remedy for the kind of poverty that forces

people to work jobs that they wouldn't ordinarily. This way, Cosgrove could help the women in the sex industry who are actually there because of lack of options, without undermining women who are there by choice. He could also avoid arbitrarily stigmatizing one female body part.

Issues involving the sex industry are difficult because one must walk the line between protecting workers from exploitation and empowering workers to make their own decisions. I'm not typically an advocate of the kind of objectification of women that goes on in strip clubs, but I'm also not in favor of women being patronized by lawmakers who think they're our fathers-elect. And I'm not even going to get into the double standard that is evidenced by the ubiquity of the male nipple in public places.

The point is that laws like this underline the idea that many laws regarding female sexuality are less about protecting women than about controlling female bodies. In some states, a woman (or man) can't even buy a vibrator. Whom does that protect, and from what?

The law treats women's bodies differently than it treats men's, and a lot of those differences have to do with sexuality. The things we regulate about women's bodies range from how much of a breast is legal to what can go into or out of a given orifice. In this way, the silly legislation about pasties and the more serious bill pending in Kentucky right now purporting to be about informed consent for abortion are related — they're each another way to control women's bodies.

Informed consent for any medical procedure is a good thing, but the goal is to reduce the need for extra, biased and occasionally inaccurate information when it comes to reproductive health. The latest planned addition to the in-

formed consent laws would require that an ultrasound be performed prior to abortion, and that the doctor show the images to the woman seeking the procedure. The fact is, an ultrasound is already performed before abortion procedures; the only change here is that women will be forced to look at the images, whether they want to or not, to obtain a medical procedure.

I can't find another medical problem with such stringent procedures for informed consent. If lawmakers are so concerned about women and consent, maybe they should work on creating laws that can do justice for victims of rape and sexual assault. To me, this attempt to turn the empowering idea of informed consent into a state-sanctioned guilt-trip is just another barrier to women's choice.

Each of these laws pretends to protect women, but put into practice, none of them do. Mandated pasties do nothing to help women who may be exploited somehow through exotic dancing; they only undermine the choices of women who actually choose that as a profession and insult female bodies. Not to mention, I would imagine that they're pretty uncomfortable.

Forcing women to look at ultrasound pictures doesn't make them more "informed." If they want to see them, they can ask to. If they don't, that shouldn't be a barrier to receiving a medical procedure. A law that mandates viewing the pictures as a requisite step toward the procedure is based on the sexist idea that women don't understand the decisions they make. If these laws are really about protection, they're frightfully sexist, paternalistic and ineffective. It looks like they just end up putting barriers between women and their decisions.

Kathryn Hogg is an English and women's studies senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

## War deaths in Iraq have dropped off media's radar

The following editorial appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Tuesday:

A bloody and depressing milestone was reached in U.S. history Sunday, just days after another bloody and depressing milestone was observed.

Last week marked the fifth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. On Sunday, U.S. casualties reached 4,000 dead soldiers and Department of Defense civilians.

This nation should be marking every single American death in Iraq with attention-grabbing headlines, not just choosing to commemorate those that signify a nice round number. If people want to ascribe either support for or opposition to President Bush by such coverage, so be it.

We are at war. American troops are dying in Iraq. That sacrifice and those lives deserve to be remembered. Although American support for individual soldiers remains high, the media's overall lack of daily reporting on the situation — successes as well as failures — appears to have resulted in the public's loss of interest in this war.

In a news interest survey conducted by Pew's Project for Excellence in Journalism, Iraq was the public's most closely followed story in all but five weeks during the first half of 2007. Much of that attention was pegged to "the surge" — President Bush's decision to order additional troops into Baghdad in January 2007. Six months later, the story had moved off the front pages. From mid-October 2007 to now, the Iraq war has not been the public's top weekly story.

The result? A Pew Research Center for the People and the Press survey re-

vealed in mid-March asked respondents to estimate the number of U.S. service deaths since the spring of 2004. Only about 28 percent of those questioned knew that the fatality list was nearing 4,000.

When the same question was asked in August 2007, more than half of those responding knew that number had reached 3,500.

No sane person would suggest that war should be conducted based on polls of the public's support or opposition. But neither should an administration that thrust this nation into a wholly unnecessary war in Iraq be totally dismissive of the majority opinion of the people who are paying for it in lives and money.

Vice President Dick Cheney's curt "So?" in response to an interviewer's statement that two-thirds of Americans say the war was not worth fighting was outrageous. Had Cheney ever worn a uniform with bars on the shoulder, that remark could be deemed conduct unbecoming an officer.

As has become a pattern with this administration, cleanup was left to someone else. White House Press secretary Dana Perino had to spin Cheney's dismissive retort with yet another "I think what he means" explanation. "Regardless of how bad it could get in terms of your popularity rating, you can't make decisions based on chasing popularity," Perino said March 20.

If Cheney had a comment in response to Sunday's news that at least 4,000 brave Americans have perished since the beginning of the Iraq war, it went unrecorded by the media.

## Fashionably stupid: Obama challenges American cult of ignorance

Early on in Robert Harris' new novel, "The Ghost," a literary editor says to an author who ghost-writes celebrity memoirs, "Tell me. When did it become fashionable to be stupid? That's the thing I don't understand. The cult of the idiot. The elevation of the moron."

I worried about this question last week as I listened to Sen. Barack Obama's speech on race. I wondered, is America going to get this? Isn't this speech way too carefully constructed and nuanced? Shouldn't he have explained what he meant by "Jim Crow"? Shouldn't he have explained who William Faulkner was?

What's he doing giving this speech at 10 o'clock on a Tuesday morning? Doesn't he know about prime time? Why did he write this speech himself? Doesn't he have speechwriters and focus groups who can test this stuff? Shouldn't he be shouting and waving his arms instead of standing coolly behind a lectern and talking in measured cadence? Why isn't he pandering?

In what surely ranks as, among other things, one of the boldest political gambles in modern times, Obama decided that the American people were willing to wrestle with complex ideas about the most divisive issue in nation. If it turns out

he's right, it will be a signal moment in recent intellectual history.

The trend surely has been in the other direction. In her controversial new book "The Age of American Unreason," author Susan Jacoby argues that the "scales of American history have shifted heavily against the vibrant and varied intellectual life so essential to functioning democracy. During the past four decades, America's endemic anti-intellectual tendencies have been grievously exacerbated by a new species of semiconscious anti-rationalism, feeding on and fed by an ignorant popular culture of video images and unremitting noise that leaves no room for contemplation or logic."

In other words, she argues, it's become fashionable to be stupid. Here is a nation founded by an eerily atypical cadre of intellectuals — Jefferson, Adams, Madison, Franklin and their ilk — who not only had read the Greeks but also had absorbed them, who had read Locke and Voltaire and were building a nation along Enlightenment principles.

Here is a nation that has been led by that archetypal American hero, the self-made man: the Lincoln who strides out of the backwoods with an ax on his shoulder and a book in his hand, the Truman who failed as a farmer, failed as a haberdasher but somehow, because he read widely and deeply, had the wisdom to help rebuild a shattered world.

And now, here is this same nation, led by a man who can't correctly pronounce the word "nu-

clear" and who once told an interviewer that he avoids reading newspapers because they're full of "opinions."

This is not to say that President Bush is stupid, only that he is profoundly intellectually incurious, willing to substitute belief for science, ideology for fact. And in this, he is typical of his age.

"Just before the 2004 presidential convention," Jacoby writes, "the journalist Ron Suskind reported a chilling conversation with a senior Bush aide who told Suskind that members of the press were part of what the Bush administration considers 'the reality-based community' — those who believe that solutions emerge from judicious study of discernible reality."

The aide bragged that "when we act, we create our own reality." These "realities" — that the Iraq war has been a stunningly successful response to 9/11, that FEMA did a heck of a job in responding to Hurricane Katrina, that tax cuts for the rich benefited all Americans, that tapping telephones in Tuscaloosa stops terrorists in Timbuktu — speak for themselves.

In much the same way, many Americans create their own reality from what they choose to believe, be it fundamentalist preachers preaching that the world is 4,000 years old to street rumors about AIDS being a white plot unleashed to devastate black communities. The A.C. Nielsen Co. reports the average American watched 4 hours and 30 minutes a day of television in 2006. The

National Endowment for the Arts reports that the same average American spends 26 minutes a day reading.

Oh, and the choices TV offers! You don't ever have to watch anything hard or unpleasant if you don't want to. If you choose, you can watch people getting tattoos for an hour or two each day. You can devote yourself 24 hours a day to sports news or celebrity news or news that you agree with, and commentators who tell you only what you want to hear. And when they make fun of egghed professors and book learning — global warming, what a joke! — you can revel in your own anti-intellectualism.

Politicians know all of this, of course. That's why they use 30-second attack ads that pander to short attention spans and that reinforce distorted beliefs. TV news directors know it, too; to avoid driving off any more of their dwindling audiences, they try not to use any more than 10 seconds of any candidate's remarks. In 2000, Jacoby reports, the average political sound-bite was down to 7.8 seconds.

So there was Obama, making a 37-minute speech on a very unpleasant subject, replete with literary and historical allusions, in the middle of a Tuesday morning, trusting that the Americans somehow would stop and pay attention to it. Even if you don't plan to vote for the man, you have to hope he was right.

Kevin Horrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.



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ADRIAN COWIN | ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL

Bassist Adam Jones (left), guitarist and vocalist Davy Knowles (center) and drummer Ross Doyle are the members of a Blues-rock band, Back Door Slam.

## British blues-rock band, Back Door Slam, is on a roll

By Len Right  
The Morning Call (Allentown, Pa.)

One thing Davy Knowles has learned in the last year: Things usually don't happen this quickly for a blues-rock band from the Isle of Man.

In 2007, Knowles, then 19, and a "terrified" Back Door Slam turned up in Austin, Texas, one of 1,400 bands showcasing their wares over four nights at the South By Southwest Music Conference.

"We were out of our comfort zone," says the guitarist-singer-songwriter. "We had been gigging on the Isle of Man for a long time, and now we were in Austin at South By Southwest competing for an audience. It was quite amazing — and nerve wracking."

"Our first gig was in a little Irish pub (B.D. Riley's) that was absolutely packed. We went on after (California country-roots band) Blackie and the Rodeo Kings, and had to cut our gear through this packed place."

Back Door Slam was a big hit, playing Knowles' zesty originals and covering Jimi Hendrix's "Red House" and John Hiatt's "Ridin' With the King," and the enthusiastic reaction proved a harbinger. The power trio, which includes 21-year-old drummer Ross Doyle and 20-year-old bassist Adam Jones, has since opened for the likes of Styx, Don McLean, REO Speedwagon, The Who and Corinne Bailey Rae.

"It's unbelievable how far

we've come," says Knowles, a day after playing at this year's SXSW. "It feels so great. Actually, we're relieved that after a year, we're still doing it."

Back Door Slam (named for the Robert Cray song) has built its U.S. fan base largely through extensive touring, and on its latest trek is unveiling a new song, a "really, really happy gospelly blues thing," called "Tear Down the Walls." But the group's debut, "Roll Away," released last June, also has contributed to a surge in popularity.

"We wanted to try to get that live sound we developed after two years of playing and song-writing," says Knowles. "It was (intended as) a snapshot of what we were about."

Knowles was born and raised on the Isle of Man, a 32-mile-long and 8-to-15-mile-wide territory off the northwest coast of England, opposite Liverpool, and the northeast coast of Ireland, near Belfast, at the geographical center of the British Isles.

Knowles first determined to become a musician when he was about 12. He was riding in a car with his father, a deep-sea diver who did everything from archaeological exploration to undersea welding on oil rigs in the Middle East in the 1970s and 1980s, when he heard Dire Straits' "Sultans of Swing." "I said to myself, 'I gotta learn to play guitar,'" recalls Knowles. (Has Knowles met Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler? "Not yet," he replies. "I'd be like a giddy

schoolgirl if I did.")

Knowles then came under the spell of "Bluesbreakers with Eric Clapton," the 1966 album widely acknowledged as one of the most influential in blues-rock history. When he heard the Bluesbreakers' cover of Freddie King's "Hideaway," "The tone of (Clapton's) playing, the fire he had, I was taken with that," Knowles remembers.

When he was 13, Knowles and some school chums formed an instrumental blues band, Out of the Blue, which lasted about six months. For the next couple of years he played in Roadhouse, "with all these guys that were my dad's age. They were in their 50s, and they were way better than me. I figured I could learn from them."

After his gig with Roadhouse ended, Knowles played with Isle of Man singer-songwriter Barry Nelson. "I progressed from 12-bar blues to songs with a bit more complex structure," he says. "We played John Hiatt stuff, and even went across to England on a few occasions."

About four years ago, Knowles decided he wanted to sing and write his own material, so he hooked up with school friend Doyle — "We were in math class when I asked him to join up" — bassist Jamie Armstrong, who would drop out to attend university, paying the way for Jones, and rhythm guitarist Brian Garvey, who died in a car crash in 2004 and was not replaced.

## Authors gather for children's lit festival

By John Mark Eberhart  
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — For Norton Juster, the DNA Children's Literature Festival Friday and Saturday will be like old home week.

Two of his buddies, author Jane Yolen and illustrator Jules Feiffer, will gather with authors and illustrators Linda Sue Park, Kate Feiffer, Laurie Keller and Giselle Potter for the 12th annual conference on children's books, sponsored by the Reading Republic.

Juster and Feiffer have a long history as friends and as creators of the classic "The Phantom Tollbooth," which was published 47 years ago and still enralls readers today with Juster's pun-filled writing and Feiffer's line drawings of young Milo.

"Some time ago, during a talk with students, one little boy asked if I thought my book was going to be around for 45 years," Juster said in a recent phone interview from his home in Amherst, Mass. "I said I wasn't sure it would be around for 45 minutes! Somehow it struck a chord with kids."

The book came about when Juster and Feiffer were living in a decrepit apartment building in Brooklyn Heights — Juster on the fourth floor, Feiffer on the third.

"I pace when I write," Juster explained. "And it drove him crazy! He finally came up to see what I was doing. He looked at the story and a couple of days later he brought up some drawings for it."

Milo, the boy who travels through the toll-booth, is based on Juster as a child. In the book Milo is introduced in the first chapter:

"When he was in school, he longed to be out, and when he was out he longed to be in. On the way he thought about coming home, and coming home he thought about going."

The more Juster wrote, the more he recalled about his childhood and how out of sorts he felt.

"I was the weird, discontented kid who didn't understand why they were stuffing all this information into my head," Juster said.

"But you must ask me about my influences. I had two primary influences. One was my aunt, who every Christmas and birthday gave me an Oz book; there were many more than just the wizard one... And the Marx Brothers. I was at the perfect age when I was seeing their films. They were full of nonsense and fun."

The word play in his book can also be traced to his father.

"My father drove me nuts with puns. Only lat-

er did I appreciate the cleverness and think, 'Hey, this is fun.'"

For Jane Yolen, the fun is in writing every day. "I write all the time," she said in a phone interview from her home in Hatfield, Mass., just minutes from Amherst.

"We writers keep a close eye on each other," she said of her 30-year friendship with Juster. While he recently reignited his children's book writing career, after retiring from decades of running his architecture firm, Yolen has written an incredible number of books during her 47-year career as a children's author.

Called the "Hans Christian Andersen of America" because of her many fairy tale books and collections of fairy tales, Yolen also has penned science fiction stories, picture books about dinosaurs, novels about wizards and dragons, and poetry.

"I added them up the other day," Yolen said, when asked for a specific number. "I have 303 books published or under contract. So, that breaks down to about 270 published and 33 or so under contract and in the works. Some aren't written yet, but they're under contract. I have eight books coming out this year."

Yolen comes from a family of storytellers, one of the topics she plans to discuss with the students at her sessions in the DNA conference. Her mother was a writer, her father was a writer and two of her three children are writers.

"Books were always important to us. Writing is like the family business. I fell into children's writing though. I took a piece to an editor as an adult book and was told it should be a children's book. I had been a journalist and a poet, so I decided I needed to go to a class to learn about children's writing. My first book that sold was nonfiction. In the class I wrote my second children's book, and it was in rhyme."

Yolen has co-written a dozen books with her daughter, Heidi Stemple, and said they write in rhyme more easily than in prose. They are currently working on a rhyming book that developed from a comment an editor made.

"We're about halfway done," Yolen said. "It's gone in three different directions already. I write a little bit, then send it to Heidi and say, 'Your turn.'"

That family collaboration will be her topic of discussion with the children at the DNA festival, but what about her speech for the adult session on Saturday?

"Being a professional writer and what that entails," she said emphatically. Then she added with a laugh, "But of course, I haven't written it yet, so if I tell you, I'll have to kill you."

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