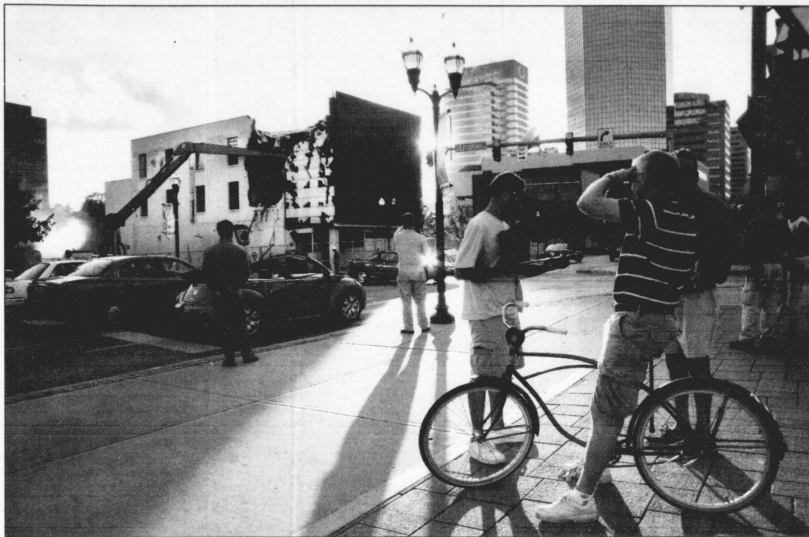


KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Demolition continues for CentrePointe block



Lexington resident Kevin Daringer, center, watches as the Rite Aid Pharmacy building is demolished yesterday evening. Daringer talked with Patrick Kelly, left, and Gary Michaels about the block's demolition to make way for the CentrePointe project.

Designers develop alternatives for block

Emily Covert
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The UK College of Design hosted a discussion and presentation on alternative design strategies for Lexington's proposed CentrePointe development Monday, featuring ideas brainstormed by UK students.

Three teams of four UK architectural design students gathered to create alternative concepts for CentrePointe Monday after a weekend-long design "charrette," a workshop focused on a design solution. The teams, led by design faculty members from the University of Illinois, the University of Southern California and UK, put together futuristic concepts for what the block between Main, Upper, and Vine streets and Limestone could look like.

The current plans for the block consists of one 35-story tower that would host a hotel, condominium, office and retail complex. The design, which could cost \$250 million, would raze all the remaining buildings on the block.

While the students' designs were conceptual and not full-scale, they offered ideas about creating more public space and changing the design to multiple towers, said Michael Speaks, dean of the UK College of Design.

"All three teams' designs keep much of the existing buildings that have been deemed historical, including where The Dame was," Speaks said. "They also find a place and keep the farmers' market."

During the 48-hour workshop, students worked to analyze the site and the problems facing it. Then, during a presentation to the community on Monday, students revealed models and animations of their ideas to an audience of about 60 people, including Vice Mayor Jim Gray and several other city officials.

"In order to build, developers wanted to tear down important, historical buildings and the farmers market," Speaks said. "It's paradoxical that this is at a time when Lexington is concerned with keeping creative people here. It's good to have these social and cultural venues."

Speaks said students were selected

See Design on page 6

By Blair Thomas
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Demolition of the remaining buildings on the downtown block where CentrePointe is planned to be built began, last night.

Bulldozers worked to tear down the Rite Aid Pharmacy building while crowds of people gathered to watch and cars drove by honking, fists waving out the window.

"I can't believe the people, such a contrast," said Gary Michaels, Lexington resident. "For some people it's a spectacle, for others it's a loss."

The demolition went into the night until the entire pharmacy was leveled.

Circuit Judge Pamela Goodwine ruled Tuesday that no provisions of the law allow for a halt of demolition to the block and gave the go-ahead to raze the remaining buildings.

She ruled against an injunction filed by Preserve Lexington to stop demolition until a September meeting with the Planning Commission, with whom they filed an appeal.

Preserve Lexington, a historic preservation group, filed the appeal against the unanimous decision



Sheila and Judson Ridgway of Lexington watch with their family as the Rite Aid Pharmacy Building on the corner of Limestone and Main Street is torn down yesterday evening.

made in late June by the Courthouse Area Design Review Board to grant permits for the demolition of the block.

A city ordinance, which established the Courthouse Area Design Zone, allows for an appeal to the Planning Commission but does not

provide for a stay of action until the commission meets. The Planning Commission tentatively set a hearing for Sept. 18.

"Even though we still legally can meet for the appeal in September, since the judge wouldn't stop demolition there will be nothing for us to ap-

peal," said Hayword Wilkison, president of the board of Preserve Lexington.

Developers Dudley and Woodford Webb can move forward with construction of the 35-story, \$250 million luxury high-rise hotel, condominium, retail and restaurant project, Goodwine said. However she is "totally disappointed" that the developers were not in court to answer questions about their development.

According to court records, Goodwine said she hoped to ask the developers about the concept of their design "and why there was no community involvement."

"Our downtown belongs to all citizens, not just the developers of this project," Goodwine said Tuesday. Goodwine said that while the developers purchased the block and it is now private property, the two-year planning stages of the project could have included community input instead of taking place behind closed doors.

Phone calls to the Webbs were not returned by press time.

Wilkison said the College of De-

See Demolition on page 6

NEWS BRIEFS

KET examines Kentucky, China connection

While the world looks to China for the upcoming Olympic Games, Kentucky can explore its connections to the country Sunday night when *Citizen Kentucky/Citizen China: Hope for a New Century* airs on KET1.

The program, airing at 10:30 p.m., is a result of a two-year exploration of the connections between Kentucky and China through commerce, education and the arts, religion, adoptions, health care and news and sports, said Executive Producer and UK professor Buck Ryan in a news release.

Dispelling misconceptions, confronting fears, improving schools and seizing opportunities are the four main focuses of the program.

UK solar car team crosses finish line

After 24,000 miles and 10 days on the road, the UK Solar Car team and the Gato Del Sol III crossed the finish line yesterday in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

The team finished 11th in the race with a final standing time of 100:33:24, after facing obstacles that ranged from heavy cloud coverage to potholes.

By crossing the finish line, the UK Solar Car team achieved their goal of finishing the race.

UK grad crowned Miss Kentucky, heads to national pageant

Last Saturday, UK graduate Emily Cox was crowned Miss Kentucky and will go on to represent the state at the Miss America pageant. Cox, who plans on earning a doctorate in pharmacy, was crowned Miss Bowling Green before the Miss Kentucky pageant, which took place at the Singletary Center for the Arts.

Cox was selected as the Kentucky representative out of 31 other girls in the competition. Cox's platform, "Ur-quely Me," promotes self-esteem in adolescent girls.

As a recipient of an \$8,000 scholarship, Cox will go on to study at UK's College of Pharmacy and will serve as the spokesperson for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's "No Ifs, Ands or Butts - It's the Law" program, educating the Commonwealth about the laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors and the penalties for breaking the law.

Cox will travel to Las Vegas to compete in the Miss America pageant on Jan. 24, 2009.

Students go green for Amazing Race

By Allie Garza
agarza@kykernel.com

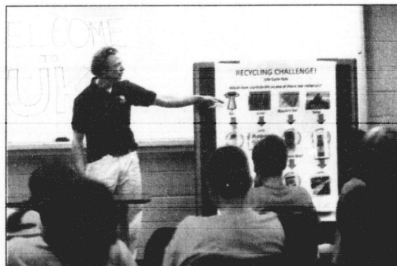
Nathaniel Edwards was tired, hungry and smiling. As he asked his peers about the "life-cycle" of different materials, he and his teammate, Gabby Guile, matched recycled items with their source during a checkpoint on campus yesterday.

They were racing. Edwards, Guile and 14 other middle school students were racing against two other 15-person teams around Lexington to complete The Amazing Race: Going Green. By going "green," students traversed on foot around Lexington, including a walk from Rupp Arena to the Student Center.

The "racing" concept stems from the CBS reality show, *The Amazing Race*, in which contestants in teams of two must race across the world, complete challenges and outwit their competitors.

Lexington's Amazing Race asked these middle school students to do just that — on a local level.

Hosted by Lexington Fayette Urban County Government Parks & Recreation and partnered with UK Student Affairs and Housing, 45 middle school students from the REAL (Recreation Enrichment And Learning) Middle School Summer Camp started their day at the Lexington Her-



ALLIE GARZA | STAFF

Shane Tedder, director of sustainability for Office of Residence Life, introduces the Recycling Challenge to the second group from the Amazing Race: Going Green challenge on Tuesday in the Student Center.

ald-Leader on Midland Avenue and were on campus near noon.

Shane Tedder, sustainability coordinator for the Office of Residence Life, met each group of students and challenged them to the recycling "life-cycle" game. Students had to complete the game in order to advance to the next checkpoint: lunch.

With lunch complete, students had to locate Baldwin Hall and find the one door that was unlocked in the

three-story building.

Overall, the students were on campus for almost three and a half hours before they departed to Calvary Baptist Church. From there, they had more tasks to complete until the winning team arrived at the Courthouse and were given the title of winners in the Amazing Race.

The winners won a pizza party for the rest of the camp, and ice cream sundaes for their team.

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HERSCOPES

By Linda C. Black

To get the advantage, check the day's ratings: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is an 8 — Your luck has just changed for the better. It'll be that way for a while. Better hurry and start new projects now, while you've got the edge.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 6 — You're going to be getting pressure from a very assertive person. You may want to tell this jerk to back off. Think twice before you do that.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is an 8 — The hard part is just about over. Soon, the celebration will begin. Better pick up a few extra chips and dips. Be prepared for drop-in company.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 7 — Get ready to make the next big career leap. You have a hidden advantage, and you don't have to say what it is. You don't even have to know what it is.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 9 — You're anxious to make things happen. Don't disappoint your fans. They're waiting to see an excellent show.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 5 — You don't have to tell your friends how you're amassing your fortune. It's better if you don't, actually.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 7 — Your social life is more active. This will not be a burden; it'll be lots of fun. Better get a new outfit, or two or three.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — By now you should know what needs to be done to achieve your goals. You'll have to make last-

minute adjustments, but mostly you'll follow your plan.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 9 — Your enthusiasm knows no bounds. If your resources are limited, zero problems. You'll get out and have a great time anyway.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 5 — Give your household a little extra attention now. Something needs to be changed or fixed, and you know what it is.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is an 8 — A person who's providing assistance can also provide a few valuable tips. Ask questions and learn as much as you can.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 7 — The money should start showing up any day. Projects you begin now pay better than usual, and bring in even more later, in residuals.

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the DISH

JEN JOINS JOHN ON TOUR!

Is Jennifer Aniston, 39, going from actress to groupie? A few weeks back, a source told us she was "nursing about building a relationship with a musician." But her recent actions show she's anything but hesitant. After John Mayer, 30, left L.A. for Copenhagen on June 18 — he will be on tour and away from L.A. for six weeks — it was a mere three days before the actress flew to Europe to be closer to the singer.

While Mayer performed in The Hague in the Netherlands on June 22, Aniston hung out in London, where she got a manicure in her Dorchester hotel suite, then dined with pals at La Famiglia. The next day, the couple reunited in Amsterdam, and at presstime she was expected to join Mayer on tour. As for their continued chemistry, "Jen feels very safe with him, and he enjoys taking care of her," says a source. And pal David Arquette thinks the pair are a perfect match. He told us on June 21, "They're great!"

TOM, GISELE & BRIDGET

When it comes to parenting, three can be a crowd. Just ask execs Bridget Moynahan and Tom Brady, 30 — who are clearly having issues over their custody arrangement — and Brady's current gal pal, Gisele Bündchen, 27. "Tom keeps changing plans at the last minute, and Bridget is bending over backward to accommodate him," a pal of the actress tells

Hot Stuff. "It's hard for her to go on with her life and go on auditions and explore new projects." Even more frustrating? "He changes his plans based on Gisele's schedule, like when she has to be in L.A. to do a shoot!" Perhaps the New England Patriots quarterback had a solution in mind when he looked at houses in Beverly Hills June 16. Says a witness, "The homes seemed very family-friendly and like they would be good for kids."

K-FED GETS REVENGE

When a pal pulled into Kevin Federline's driveway recently, he revved his engine to announce his arrival. But it was nap time, and "Kevin worried the boys would wake up," a source says. Federline, 30, is re-revving his truck outside the house of the pal, also a dad. "He wanted him to see how it felt!"

SPENCER & HEIDI: AFRICA BOUND!

Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag have their sights set far beyond The Hills. "We're going to Africa this year.... We want to do all we can to help fight hunger," Pratt, 24, told Hot Stuff at the Boost Mobile RockCorps L.A. concert. The pair — who volunteered last October for World Hunger Relief Week — are making a difference at home, too. "We turn off the lights and water," Montag, 21, says. Despite their glitzy betrotting plans, Montag is still focusing on her singing career. Producer RedOne, who has worked with Shakira, is writing music for her next CD. RedOne

tells us, "Her voice is really good!"

J-HUD'S HOT NEW ROMANCE

Jennifer Hudson has landed a Harvard hottie! The actress, 26, who split from her longtime beau, maintenance engineer James Payton, is getting serious with Chicago lawyer (and Harvard Law grad) David Otunga, 28, who appeared on I Love New York 2. "She wants to get engaged," a source tells Hot Stuff. For his part, Otunga tells us, "Jennifer is a wonderful girl."

THE FRED SEGAL STORE

Even with her millions of dollars, Kathy Hilton still has to do some dirty work. The famous mom was spotted in L.A.'s Fred Segal store on June 16 returning hubby Rick's Father's Day gifts from Nicky Hilton: a \$134 robe and a \$285 jewelry box. Seen in the boutique a day earlier? Salma Hayek, 41, who was dealing with a carb craving in the shop's Mauro's Cafe. "She ordered pasta, but the kitchen was closed," a source tells Hot Stuff. "She said, 'Are you seriously telling me there's no way you can find some pasta?'" Yet another awkward encounter: A source says that a clerk recently struggled to find newly split Liv Tyler's store record until the actress, 31 — referring to her married name — said, "Oh, I'm still using Langdon." Who knew retail could be so rough?

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ACROSS

- 1 Professor in Cite
- 5 African master
- 10 Trojan War hero
- 14 Notes after do
- 15 Loop-the-loop and fume
- 16 Toothpaste holder
- 17 Butterfingers's remark
- 18 '40s-'50s computer
- 19 What the nose knows
- 20 Start of a rationale order for the family
- 23 Shipper's choice
- 24 'Wake Up, Little
- 25 Fr. holy woman
- 28 Driver's lic. datum
- 30 Shed tools
- 32 Folk singer
- 33 D'Franco
- 35 More of the order
- 40 Boxing venue
- 42 Great Casualty
- 43 'The Thin Man' dog
- 44 More of the order
- 47 Bashful
- 48 In any way
- 49 Part of CBS: Abbr.
- 51 'Wheel of Fortune' buy
- 52 Rust, e.g.
- 57 The blahs
- 61 End of the order
- 64 PlayStation 2 rival
- 66 "... to say this, but..."
- 67 Presidential office shape
- 68 Singer Lovett
- 69 Cruise ship
- 70 "Ook..."
- 71 Watermelon discard
- 72 Fencing swords
- 73 Tom Sawyer affirmative

DOWN

- 1 Logic exercise
- 2 Sierra
- 3 Called the game



ACROSS

- 1 'Stop it'
- 5 Nails may cause
- 10 Shipboard shout
- 14 ...friendly
- 15 Plan again, as strategy
- 16 Victor Borge, e.g.
- 17 Hedgepodge
- 18 Verse units
- 19 Gem mined in Australia
- 20 Where to stand firm?
- 23 Lulu
- 24 Madeline of 'Clue'
- 25 Basoch attendants
- 27 Shon-curt
- 30 Short rest
- 32 Collect for a
- 33 ...root
- 34 Tell just about anything
- 30 Pinks
- 37 Unit of energy
- 41 Wonder
- 42 Upright
- 44 Showbread
- 45 Mexican last food
- 47 Narrow projections
- 49 Spins on the ice
- 50 Wobble
- 52 Certain something
- 53 Sympathetic attention
- 54 Where to relax?
- 60 Hyped-up
- 62 Impolite looks
- 63 Follow orders
- 64 Lumnox
- 65 Gambling game
- 66 Poke (around)
- 67 Rope fiber
- 68 Promise
- 69 Jazz sessions

DOWN

- 1 Pairs
- 2 Kon-Tik Museum site
- 3 Diamond who sang 'Sweet Caroline'

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 63 Follow orders
 64 Lumnox
 65 Gambling game
 66 Poke (around)
 67 Rope fiber
 68 Promise
 69 Jazz sessions

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LauraJustice@rtr.com

Accent fall with flowers and feathers

Just yesterday I returned from a little (and my very first — I know, can you believe it?) trip to THE New York City, and am only too excited to impart the knowledge I gained there to you, my fellow fashion mavens.



MAGGIE LANHAM
Kernel columnist

Because the summer is coming to an end (in the fashion world, that is — the fall lines are already out!), I thought it would be appropriate to give a heads-up on the fall fashions worth taking a look at and those that really aren't worth your time.

The first trend I took notice of is feathers. Yes, feathers. They're popping up all over the runways (and the streets) as a bodice to a formfitting dress or as drop earrings matched with turquoise and burnt red beads. Though it could verge on the side of costume, this is a style worth taking a second look at, trust me. Your best bet for strutting this style would be in the accessories. A feather headband is my favorite and gives an earthy and natural yet unique twist to your everyday outfit that will keep people curious.

Another fashion I noticed (and loved) was floral prints, which I saw in many manifestations. On Seventh Avenue, I found that florals were abounding in bold patterns splashed across dresses that reached just below the knee. In Greenwich Village I found florals were displayed in softer, vintage or vintage-inspired prints on breezy chiffon dresses and necklaces with an antique gold chain.

Whichever way you choose to wear them, florals are definitely an investment worth making.

A style I wasn't so keen on was the slouchy pants look. Though it looks fabulous on the runway and on stick-figure models, it isn't a style that's as accessible to the everyday woman. The most difficult thing about slouchy pants is that they have to fit just so, or the whole look is off. And to find a pair that fits right, you need to be willing to fork out the dough (which I found sadly, does not, in fact, grow on trees). I'd say stick with your boot-cut, slim-fit, skinny jeans or even belled jeans, which I heard are making a comeback! Can you say Cher circa Sonny and Cher?

The second trend I noticed I wasn't too fond of was the return of the black pointy-toed high heel! Yes, we all own a pair (I know I most certainly do), but I was really enjoying the round-toed heels, flats and boots, and didn't wish to return from my hiatus from black pointy heels for a long while. While they are sleek and professional, let's have some more fun with our footwear! For this reason, I would suggest, if you do love sporting pointy heels, making them colorful! A deep crimson or a rich royal purple are all colors for the fall, so don't be afraid to step out in them. And if heels aren't for you at all, look into brown leather boots — they are all the rage and so comfy!

And again, whatever you do, whether you agree with my fashion ideals or not, make sure to wear what makes you feel best and most fabulous. Because it doesn't matter how many runways strut whatever styles, real fashion mavens (such as yourselves) all know that true style is about just being you.

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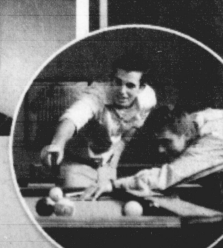
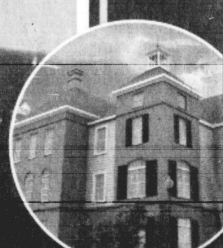
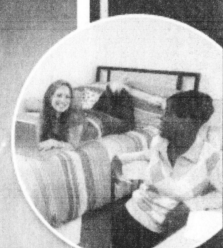
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OPINIONS

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■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

As buildings fall, accept potential with new design

The bulldozers arrived, the buildings fell and with them went the last hopes for an appeal to stop the demolition of the CentrePointe block.

We knew it was coming — the razing was unanimously approved at the end of June. The Dame and Busters officially closed nearly a month ago — but still we held tight to the thought that someone (hopefully historical preservation group Preserve Lexington), somewhere would win an appeal and prevent the 35-story monstrosity from climbing into the downtown skies.

But with the block being leveled we shouldn't pause too long to wallow in defeat and nostalgia, instead it is important to look ahead for ways to make the best out of the new hotel, retail and restaurant space.

Circuit Judge Pamela Goodwine said during her ruling Tuesday, which gave the go-ahead for demolition of the remaining buildings on the block, the economic impact for the Lexington community would be "incredibly significant."

"The economic benefits for years to come are absolutely and indisputably tremendous," Goodwine said.

So if this is true and the city will benefit economically, even if not culturally, maybe there is something to look forward to... but please let it be in a different package.

The Kernel commends the efforts of the College of Design in hosting a design workshop to generate alternate concepts for a hotel; however the designs were far-fetched and hardly realistic.

While we complain that the current design by Dudley and Woodford Webb is out-dated, unattractive and unfitting with the rest of the buildings in Lexington, the newly-generated al-

ternatives fit in, if possible, even less. Paul Preissner, faculty member at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and his team designed a set of high rises that bend and curve into the sky, somewhat resembling french fries, and stand in awkward comparison to the rest of downtown's architecture.

The team led by Heather Flood and Ramiro Diaz Granados, faculty members at the Southern California Institute of Architecture didn't come close to achieving practicality either.

Even Liz Swanson and Mike McKay, faculty in UK's College of Design, and their design team failed to come up with designs for the block that mirror the culture and history of Lexington.

Having an influence on the concept for the up-scale high rise this time in the game is "awfully small," Hayward Wilkinson, president of the board of Preserve Lexington, told the Kernel. With this in mind, architects, designers, students and community members should be thinking of practical alternatives and realistic hotel plans that are both better than the current design for CentrePointe and something that will still belong in Lexington in thirty years.

It was an honest effort by all involved to host the design competition. We only wish it had come sooner in the project.

The buildings are falling, now it's time to accept the potential this development has to offer, jobs and revenue to Lexington and come up with a design to ease the economic growth that embodies the history and personality of the city.

Even if we were satisfied with what we had.

Court to FCC: Get real

The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Tuesday, July 22:

Whatever Janet Jackson does in the remaining time she has in this world, she probably can't alter the first sentence of the obituary that will run when she departs it. Unless she becomes a serial killer or a Nobel Peace Prize winner, she will forever be remembered for her bare right breast.

It inspired the now-universal term "wardrobe malfunction," a creative way of describing the incident at the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show when fellow pop singer Justin Timberlake yanked at her costume, providing a brief, partial glimpse of her upper torso.

We do mean brief — the flash of skin was over in exactly nine-sixteenths of a second. But for exposing football fans to that momentary image, the Federal Communications Commission came down hard on CBS, which broadcast the event. It found the network guilty of airing "indecent" material and levied a fine of \$550,000.

As a federal appeals court recognized Monday in throwing out the fine, the decision was a gross overreaction to an obnoxious but unscripted display. The fine punished the wrong party, since CBS had no knowledge of Timberlake's intention and, in fact, had sent representatives to rehearsals to make sure nothing was out of line.

In imposing the fine, the FCC retroactively applied a Draconian new

policy on words and images that are indecent but fleeting, which the agency had previously tolerated. It was "arbitrary and capricious," the court said, for the agency to "change a well-established course of action without supplying notice of and a reasoned explanation for its policy departure."

The FCC penalty also greatly exaggerated the harm done by the incident. No one was scarred. For anyone who merely saw the show live on TV, the flash was over before it had even registered in the brain.

The court spent much of its opinion refuting the FCC claim that Jackson and Timberlake were the functional equivalent of network employees, which it said made CBS liable for their conduct. It concluded that, in reality, they were independent contractors. If the government is going to punish the network for their expressive conduct, the court found, it has to prove CBS knew what they were planning or recklessly ignored the possibility.

Federal action was not needed to protect viewers, because CBS, embarrassed by the episode, promptly took steps to prevent a repetition.

By the 2005 Super Bowl, a video delay was in place to catch anything inappropriate, and the halftime performer was 62-year-old Paul McCartney, who is famous for keeping his clothes on. And even he had to submit his song lyrics for rigorous inspection.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Goodnight, and Good luck UK professors

I'm leaning against Obama because he's Muslim, I'm leaning toward McCain because he believes in the right of Czechoslovakia to still exist, and I'm ending my friendship with two UK professors after reading a Lexington Herald-Leader commentary, "Fair to point out lack of ideological diversity at UK."

The Monday, July 14, commentary came in response to the Herald-Leader editorial, "Academic witch hunt: Toss Family Foundation flyers on the fire." One former friend, Bob Tanenbaum, was the unnamed professor cited as teaching a Discovery Seminar Program class on civil liberties. As the writer pointed out, "Problem is, he's not even an attorney." I believe that when our Founding Fathers wrote "We the people," the original intent was "We the people (who passed the bar exam)."

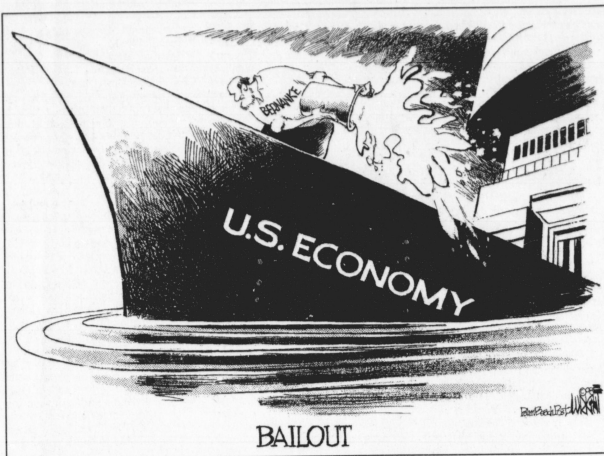
It's just wrong for a common citizen to be teaching about the Constitution. Bob's wife, Joanna Badagliacco, is now also a former friend because of her obvious affiliation with Bob. Good night, and good luck.

Buck Ryan
Director, Citizen Kennebec Project
Scraps Howard First Amendment Center

Submissions

Send a letter to the editor to the Kernel opinions desk. Be sure to include your full name, class, major and phone number (for confirmation).

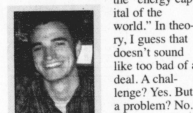
E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



DON WRIGHT, The Palm Beach Post

Beshear wrong to think coal can be mined "environmentally"

Late last week, Gov. Steve Beshear had an announcement to make: he wants Kentucky to become the "energy capital of the world."



TAYLOR SHELTON
Guest Columnist

That is, until Beshear said how he was going to do it. Beshear's proposed energy plan (note that there won't be an actual plan until September) will seek to integrate the development of renewable energy with the death knell of both a clean environment and a thriving Kentucky economy: coal. Beshear wants coal.

I cannot state it any plainer: Steve Beshear wants lots and lots of coal.

During his press conference, the governor said mountaintop removal, the easiest, cheapest and most destructive way of mining coal, could be done "environmentally." Despite the fact I'm not sure the governor just completed a sentence, he is completely wrong. There is nothing "environmental," environmentally friendly, green, sustainable or ecologically sound about mountaintop removal, nor will there ever be.

To date, nearly 500 mountains in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia have been leveled, burying thousands of miles of streams that provide drinking water and contaminating even more with toxic waste from coal slurry. The damage done by mountaintop removal is largely irreparable, but even the regulations requiring coal companies to "reclaim" the land to its 'approximate original contour' are often ignored and poorly enforced.

But yet, Gov. Beshear thinks mountaintop removal will be good for our state and our communities. Or somehow he has gotten the mountaintop removal that eastern Kentuckians have been devastated by confused with some other kind of mountaintop removal the rest of us don't know about. It's a possibility, considering he believes it to be possible to simultaneously increase our state's dependence on coal and coal-fired power plants, along with the development of coal-to-liquid fuels, while decreasing carbon emissions from electricity. It doesn't even take much common sense to realize that you can't have this cake and eat it, too. But then again, Beshear may just be confused.

As some have so astutely pointed out, Beshear has most of his proposed energy plan from scandal-laden and often-incompetent former Republican Gov. Ernie Fletcher. What this says, both about Beshear's energy plan and Kentucky's partisan politics, is that a

ruling class of elite politicians from both parties refuse to accept the realities that their constituents have already acknowledged, often moving our state backwards in a number of ways. Global warming is real and the coal industry is exploitative, both of eastern Kentucky's labor and land. There is more economic opportunity in progressing toward a climate neutral and renewable energy economy than there is in the coal industry. Providing our children with healthcare and a good education is more important than corporate welfare handed out to Peabody Coal. But the elder generations just don't seem to get these facts. Until they do, the Commonwealth is in a great deal of trouble.

So long as Kentucky's good ole boy Republicans and Democrats aren't held accountable for their miserable excuses for public policy, our state will continue to trail the rest of the nation in all meaningful indicators of economic development, education, public health, environmental protection and standard of living. In spite of our many differences, I think it should be easy for all Kentuckians of the current generation to agree on one thing: Neither of the political parties are addressing our needs, and we refuse to allow our state to continue to lag behind the rest of the nation. I chose to stay in Kentucky for a reason, but more and more, our state's politicians are giving me a reason to get out.

If Iraq has sided with Obama, how will McCain spin his spin?

Imagine my surprise, early Saturday morning, to discover, in my e-mail inbox, a news bulletin from the



DICK POLMAN
Syndicated columnist

White House, calling attention to an interview that Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki had just given to the German newspaper Der Spiegel. In that interview, Maliki offered some strong opinions about the issue of U.S. troop withdrawal.

Maliki offered some strong opinions about the issue of U.S. troop withdrawal... and made it quite clear that he likes the concept of a 16-month withdrawal timetable — as proposed by the Democratic presidential candidate, Barack Obama.

I at first thought I must be suffering from heat exhaustion. Maliki was siding with Obama? And thereby dealing a major political blow to John McCain, who has been trying to paint Obama's Iraq proposals as naive and irresponsible? Not possible.

Well, as it turned out (and this tidbit would not be known for many hours), the Bush team messed up. (Hardly the first time.) The White House had intended to circulate the Der Spiegel story for internal use only; mistakenly, it had sent it out to the broader journalistic community. Thanks, guys!

And here was Maliki, in the story, implicitly doing quite a number on the McCain campaign. Some quote-worthy highlights: "Artificially prolonging the tenure of U.S. troops in

Iraq would cause problems. U.S. presidential candidate Barack Obama talks about 16 months (for a withdrawal timetable). That, we think, would be the right time frame for a withdrawal, with the possibility of slight changes. ... Whoever is thinking about the shorter term (for withdrawal) is closer to reality. ..."

McCain's aides have been hammering at Obama, claiming that the 16-month timetable reflects ignorance of the facts on the ground — and here was Maliki, sounding supportive for a 16-month timetable, based on his own reading of the facts on the ground. It took the McCain people all day Saturday to come up with some kind of response. In the early evening, finally, they did. It was transparently weak: "John McCain believes withdrawal must be based on conditions on the ground. Prime Minister Maliki has repeatedly affirmed the same view, and did so again today."

That spin wasn't very effective, since Maliki had essentially refuted almost every fact of McCain's Iraq policy.

So clearly, the McCain camp needed more help. And the Bush war apparatus did its best to help, but not until the wee hours of early Sunday morning. That's when U.S. military command headquarters put out a statement, quoting an Iraqi government official, saying that Der Spiegel had "misunderstood and mistranslated" the Maliki remarks. The problem was, the statement never pinpointed where the misunderstanding and mistranslations had occurred.

On Sunday, Der Spiegel said it "stands by its version of the conversa-

tion." It then forwarded audio of the interview to the New York Times, which did its own translation and, in Monday's edition, affirmed the Der Spiegel version. It reported, too, that Maliki had brought up the Obama plan on his own, and it added this quote to the record: "Who wants to exit in a quicker way has a better assessment of the situation in Iraq."

After a meeting Monday between Obama and Maliki, the Iraqi government has now jettisoned all the "mis-translation" nonsense and essentially sided with the Obama approach. A Maliki spokesman said the government endorses the concept of "a real timetable" for U.S. troop withdrawal. He then said that the targeted year for withdrawal is 2010. Which happens to be Obama's targeted year.

Well, what does McCain say now? In April 2004, at a Council of Foreign Relations event, McCain was asked what we should do if a sovereign Iraqi government made it clear that we should leave. He replied: "Well, if that scenario evolves, then I think it's obvious that we would have to leave. ..."

So, in the wake of this Maliki episode, McCain basically has three choices: (1) He can flip-flop on what he said in 2004, and position himself even to the right of Bush, whose administration now speaks of "joint aspirational time horizons" for withdrawal; (2) he can ease his way toward Obama's position on Iraq, just as he has lately on Afghanistan, thereby demonstrating that the wisdom gap on national security is a lot smaller than he'd like it to be; or (3) he can try to ride out this whole embarrassment, and hope that relatively few swing voters take notice.

A TRANQUIL GARDEN



ALLIE GARZA | STAFF

Sister Nancy spends time in the garden at the UK Arboretum yesterday evening. Sindhu Madathil, a post graduate fellows at the UK Medical Center, said her aunt was visiting with her friend, Sister Caroline, from India.

DEMOLITION

Continued from page 1

sign made a great effort when they sponsored an alternative design competition for the Centre-Pointe block but it was "way too late."

"This is how things should have gone from the beginning—having a competition for the best design for the area but it didn't happen that way," Wilkerson said.

Preserve Lexington will consider challenging the nature of how the project is designed, Wilkerson said, but the group first has to consider whether the challenge would be "a productive thing to do."

"Realistically, it's the only thing (Preserve Lexington) has left to do," Wilkerson said, "but the odds of influencing the project at this stage are awfully small and we haven't decided what we'll do."

Staff writer Allie Garza contributed to this story.

DESIGN

Continued from page 1

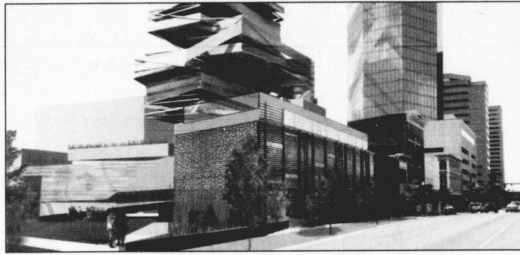
by their summertime availability and their experience with similar types of projects.

"This had a tremendous impact (on the students)," Speaks said. "They were working in ways architects really work, and they had deadlines. They got real-world experience with issues connecting UK to the city they live in."

Speaks said he was unsure of how the building would inevitably impact the community.

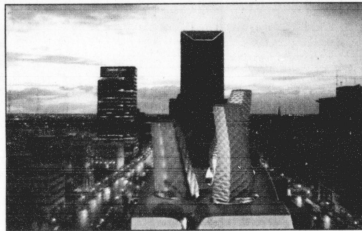
"It's hard to know what (CentrePointe) is going to mean," he said. "It's a very important location in the city. Whatever is built there will have a big impact on the city for a long time."

ALTERNATE CENTREPOINTE DESIGNS

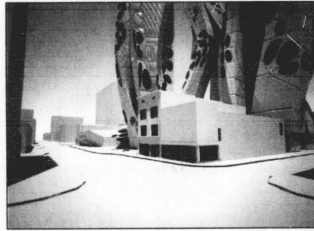


PHOTOS COURTESY OF UK COLLEGE OF DESIGN | STAFF

The CentrePointe alternative proposal designed by UK College of Design faculty members Liz Swanson and Mike McKay and their team.



CentrePointe block design by Heather Flood and Ramiro Diaz Granados from the Southern California Institute of Architecture, and their team.



CentrePointe block design by University of Illinois at Chicago faculty member Paul Preissner and his team.

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