



WEATHER Rain ending this morning, high near 55. Clear tonight, low of 40. Mild tomorrow, high

MAKING A POINT Cats aim to contain South Carolina's perimeter play-ers. See Sports, page 3.

FRi

February 27, 1998

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Cultural cornucopia



Campus gets taste of world food, fanfare

By Haili Wu
Senior Staff Writer

Hmmm... the rich aroma of food. Of course it's not just some fast food, but the smell of exotic, faraway places make any mouth water. As the hypnotic smells guide the hunger-stricken students through the labyrinth of a Student Center, the raucous music and voices grow louder.

For the last 10 years, every time students smell the smell and hear the noises. They would know one thing for sure: The Cultural Diversity Festival has begun. This celebration with food, music and exhibits kicks off the festival.

This is a UK tradition: "A Taste of Our World."

"We can go all over the world by just being here on campus," said Mildred Bailey, of the Minority Affairs department and member of the Cultural Diversity Programs Committee.

The festival, held at the Student Center Grand Ballroom, included cuisine from Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the North and South America. Exhibits were also set up on countries such as China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Russia and Zimbabwe. The atmosphere was rounded off with the UK Steel Cats playing music with a Caribbean touch.

"A Taste of Our World" is a project coordinated by the Cultural Diversity Programs Committee, with Randy Gonzalez from the Student Affairs office serving as the chairman. Student participants include the International Student Council, Cosmopolitan Club, Student Activities Board and the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center, as well as various international student organizations.

"Our focus is to bring together students and faculties to celebrate diversity. It's an opportunity to learn," Gonzalez said. "The music, food and exhibits help to set the mood (of diversity)."

Gonzalez also said he was satisfied with the student turnout.

The participants and sponsoring organizations want to gain recognition from the campus.

Although the council has been



FESTIVE AIR First-year pharmacy student Lijian Cai from Beijing (above) takes apart a Chinese kite. Chemistry sophomore Paul Schmidt (below, left) examines a Columbian tapestry with Yanira Paz of the Latin American Studies program.

involved in "A Taste of Our World," members said they still lack respect for their role on campus.

The council "is a part of campus," said Mira Arifin, of Indonesia, president of the council and a finance and marketing senior.

"People know of SGA, but not ISC," added Carolyn Holmes of the International Affairs office. "ISC is made up of all the heads of international student organizations; it is a representative body."

Mark Spears, who also works in the International Affairs office, said, "American students are not aware of the international students."

Those who attended said the festival and the bonanza of food is an excellent opportunity for many of these organizations to expose themselves to the campus, and earn some recognition in return.

This is the second year the African Student Association has been involved in the festival. Ladi Oduboyan, a marketing senior and the ASA president, said this is the chance "to show people our culture and art."



This close-circle interaction between the American and international side of UK is not just limited to college students. This year, honors students from Winburn Middle School also got a taste of this world. Kids from Fayette County public schools have always participated in the festival, sponsored by UK Office of Minority Affairs, to promote higher education.

"A Taste of Our World" is just the beginning of the festival, with activities continuing until March 7.

New round of debates to address SGA apathy

By Jed Leano
Staff Writer

With elections for next year just one month away, the Student Government Association is working with different organizations around campus to hold debates where candidates can address voters' questions and concerns.

Multiple debates are a shift from the traditional election procedure, where only one debate was held in the past.

In past elections, the only presidential debate has been held by the Greek Political Action Committee. This debate served as a liaison between the candidates and members of the Greek community.

Yesterday the Black Student Union got in on the action by sponsoring a debate that was open to candidates for all SGA offices. More than 30 BSU members sat in the Martin Luther King Cultural Center to hear from 10 SGA candidates.

"What will you do specifically to carry out our interests?" asked Clyde Pickett, BSU vice president and debate moderator. "What is your platform? What qualifies you for these offices? We would like to know how you will enforce our interests."

While BSU members heard the "regular" questions answered, they also heard things that directly affected them.

"Why haven't you come to our meetings?" asked Donald Hardison, BSU member. "What have you done as individuals to help the Black Student Union? And if you haven't, why should we vote for you?"

While BSU held its debate yesterday, other campus groups are planning similar activities to learn more about the candidates.

"Having more debates is a great way to involve more parts of the student body in the election process," said George Myers, the College of Social Work senator. "This provides more adequate constituency representation in such a large University. They are also the best way to help students make up their minds when they feel that all of the candidates are qualified, which many times turns out to be the case."

Nate Brown, College of Communications and Information Studies senator, agreed with Myers but would like to see even more involvement than what is currently being planned.

Brown said the more debates held, the better the election is. When more student organizations get involved with the process, he said, a domino effect occurs in which the interest in elections spreads.

Brown also said these debates help a great deal in making SGA more interactive with students, which has been the organization's recent focus.

"SGA is going to continue its commitment to reaching out to students," Brown said. "The debates are the first step in a process that has just been developing recently and hopefully will continue next year."

These debates say a lot about how the students are responding to recent SGA measures, Myers said, explaining that there has been a push since the beginning of the semester to re-familiarize SGA with students. A solid core of senators has led the way to fight for more student-SGA interaction.

But some want to stay with the status quo. Myers said it's usually the same group of senators who don't want to push for improvement within SGA, but "the desire of students to involve their own organizations with elections shows that they are with us," he said, "and they want real change from their government."

With the success of the BSU debate, other student organizations are bound to follow, freshman Sen. Jim Glenn said. The polls open for SGA elections in about three weeks.

SGA is going to continue its commitment to reaching out to students.

Nate Brown
College of Communications and Information Studies senator

UK staff trustee bill on fast track to full Senate

By Mat Herron
News Editor

In just a few days, a bill to add another staff member to the UK Board of Trustees might jump a hurdle it couldn't two years ago.

The Senate Education Committee voted unanimously in favor of Senate Bill 295 on Thursday, and will hit the Senate floor in the next couple of days, said Sen. Ernesto Scorsone (D-Lexington).

"It's on the fast track in the Senate because it has so much

support," he said. "It also means nobody voted against in the Senate Education Committee."

The bill, defeated by the Senate in March 1996, has gained the support of many legislators, as well as UK organizations and committees, including University Senate Council, the Student Government Association, the Women's Studies Program and the staff regents at the seven other public institutions.

Scorsone has also fielded many e-mails from UK staff personnel, most of whom share positive feel-

ings about the proposal.

"We're pleased that it passed through the Senate, that's where we were stuck last time," said Shannon Price, assistant project director for Kentucky National Science Foundation EPSCoR.

"The difference is, (this time) the bill started in House," she said. "The same bill passed the House two years ago, and we're very optimistic that it will finally become official."

A key supporter, Scorsone said, is the current president of the Senate,

Larry Saunders (D-Louisville).

Saunders has said he has no problems with the bill "and will obviously not try to kill it," said Scorsone, who is hoping the president's support will lead to the bill's passage.

Should the bill pass the full Senate, it will go to the House Education Committee and then to the full House.

UK is the only public institution in the state that does not include a staff representative on its Board of Trustees. Two faculty members who sit on the

board represent both staff and faculty concerns, a conflict Price and Scorsone said could be alleviated by adding a staff member.

"There are issues that the faculty have that the staff don't have to put up with and vice versa," Scorsone said. "It's difficult for one profession to represent another. They would both be better served by having their own representatives."

UK staff total almost 9,000, whereas faculty number about 3,000.

But the differences between the two run deeper than numbers, Price said. Hiring practices, raises and maternity leave are just a few of the policies that apply differently to staff than faculty.

A staff member would complete the UK board, bringing it back to its original total of 20 members.

Last spring, when the state removed 13 community colleges from UK's control, the board lost its community college representative.

SPORTS

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Offense absent in UK's loss

By Rob Herbst
Sports Editor

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Usually cat naps don't last long but for the UK women's basketball team the snooze lasted for almost two hours.

The eighth-seeded Wildcats never awoke to challenge ninth-seeded Mississippi State in the first-round of the Southeastern Conference women's basketball tournament and thus made an early exit from Columbus with a 67-48 loss.

Unlike the Wildcats, the Lady Bulldogs came out with bite — going on an 11-2 run to start the game. The lead ballooned to as high as 14 before the Cats made an attempt to come out of their coma by eventually cutting the lead to two before going to the locker room down 34-29.

"We definitely felt fortunate (to be down five)," said freshman Laura Meadows. "I thought if we came out in the second half like we did late in the first half we'd do well."

UK junior Jaye Barnes helped the UK revival attempt by scoring seven consecutive points during the Wildcats' brief stretch of success.

Barnes emerged after injuring her left shoulder only four minutes into the game. She finished the game with 16 points.

But like the first half the Wildcats sleepwalked out of the locker room and Mississippi State took advantage. MSU's lead reached double-digits only three minutes in and UK never got to within seven.

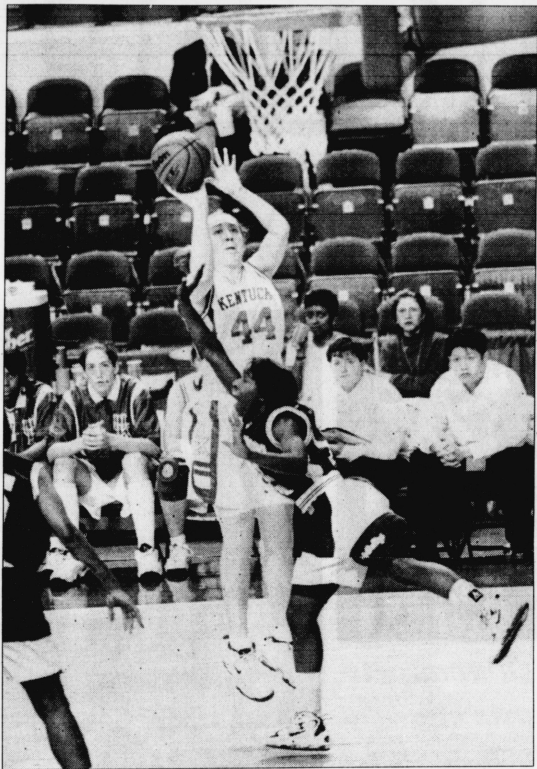
This time there was no sign of a pulse as the Cats scored a measly 19 points in the half for the 19-point loss.

"Offensively we didn't attack like we should have. There weren't five people on the floor at one time thinking what to do," UK head coach Bernadette Mattox said after the game. "You can't win games in the SEC when you score only 19 points."

While Barnes thrived during moments of the first half, her offense was an unsolved mystery in the second half. She put up only three second-half shots for three second-half points.

"Coach has been on us to be more offensive minded because all we do is pass, pass and pass," Barnes said. "We're too unselfish and we'll have to work on that."

Nobody made an attempt to fill-in for Barnes. Meadows, an SEC All-Freshman,



MATT BARTON Kernel staff

SHOOTING BLANKS UK's Laura Meadows went up for a shot against Mississippi State in the SEC Tournament yesterday. The All-SEC freshman made only 2-of-11 shots.

would have been the most likely candidate but she struggled all afternoon. Meadows hit only 2-of-11 from the field for five points — one of her lowest offensive performances of the season. She also had seven turnovers.

"I missed a lot of shots I should have made," Meadows said. "We needed to hit those to get back in the game but we didn't."

The Lady Bulldogs found points from guard Evette Porter. She scored 21 points in 26 minutes with a slightly injured knee.

With two wins in the SEC Tournament,

the Wildcats would have finished .500, a goal from the outset of the season. Instead the Cats finish with a 13-15 record and leave west Georgia with a nasty "L."

"It's definitely a tough way to end the season. You've gotta knock off your first-round opponent. We should have come out and played better," Meadows said.

Meadows expressed her dissatisfaction with the season.

"None of us are satisfied with this season. There were a lot of games that we won that we shouldn't have."

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Confidence helps boost Bulldogs

By Jay G. Tate
Sports Editor

COLUMBUS, Ga. — What a simple game basketball can be. You feel good, you enjoy success. You feel confident, you enjoy success.

And when Mississippi State strolled into the Columbus Civic Center yesterday, its players had a good feeling, a thorough dose of confidence and even a bit of extrasensory perception.

The Lady Bulldogs knew what would happen before anyone else. It was going to be a blowout. And it was. MSU 67-UK 48.

"The whole team — we knew before the game that we were going to win this game," MSU center Sharon Thompson said. "I don't think anyone had a thought of losing in their minds. Coming off the game against Florida, we played an excellent game. And it carried over for us today."

MSU hits the mark

As a 39.6 percent field goal percentage suggests, finding the center of the bucket was a big problem for the Wildcats yesterday.

But when Mississippi State needed offense, there was senior Evette Porter.
 "The pride of Louisville, Miss., hit 9-of-12 from the field for a game-high 21 points.

"From the moment we stepped off the bus yesterday, I was ready to play," Porter said.

Porter is one of four seniors who started for the Lady Bulldogs yesterday, compared to the Wildcats who started only one senior — center Kim Denkins.

"(Mississippi State) has got four seniors over there and you're thinking it might be your last game," said UK head coach Bernadette Mattox. "Freshmen and sophomores aren't thinking about that."

The lone UK senior's stat line in her final game?

Two points, three rebounds and two turnovers in 17 minutes of play.

Barnes suffers minor injury

An ugly game looked to be headed to purgatory for the Cats after going to power forward Jaye Barnes crashed to the floor during the first half. After the game, Barnes said the injury had her reeling but it was more than her shoulder which felt pain.

"Right now my heart's a lot more than my arm (hurs) but it will be OK," Barnes said.

Could you repeat that?

Sure yesterday's win was the highlight of Mississippi State's season.

The win evened the team's record at 13-13 and marked the team's first SEC Tournament win since 1988.

But Evette Porter may have gotten a little carried away with her praise afterward.
 "If we play together as a team,

we'll never lose," she said. The Lady Bulldogs now advance to play No. 1 and undefeated Tennessee today.

Bulldogs get rare win

Beating the Cats doesn't happen very often for the Lady Bulldogs — Mississippi State hadn't defeated UK since 1991.

But for MSU head coach Sharon Fanning it was the first win against a Wildcat program she coached from 1987-1995.

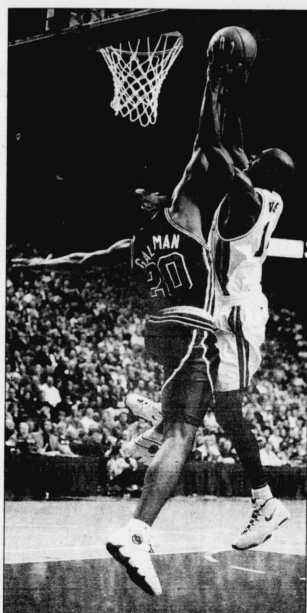
Though she admitted playing UK was difficult, Fanning insisted her personal feelings had little to do with MSU's performance.

"Each time, it's a little bit different playing UK," Fanning said. "It was very difficult the first year I went back in. We all grow and go to the next thing. It was the first time Mississippi State had won a game (since 1988) and it just happened to be Kentucky."

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IN YOUR FACE
UK's Heshima Evans leads the Cats into hostile Frank McGuire Arena for a 1 p.m. battle with South Carolina tomorrow.



JAMES CRISP
Kernel staff

UK looks to sweep Carolina

By Matthew May
Assistant Sports Editor

Revenge. That is what South Carolina's basketball team will be looking for tomorrow when UK invades Frank McGuire Arena at 1 p.m. for a renewal of the SEC Eastern Division's most heated rivalry.

Back on Jan. 13, the Cats embarrassed a proud Gamecocks team 91-70 in Rupp Arena, exacting a little bit of revenge of its own for South Carolina's two victories over UK last year, including a Senior Day loss.

The Cats may be without the services of senior swing man Allen Edwards, whose mother, Laura Mae Edwards, died early yesterday after a long battle with cancer. As of press time, no decision had been made on whether Edwards will be in Columbia.

UK coach Tubby Smith issued the following statement about Edwards' situation.

"Our condolences go out to Allen and his family after the passing of his mother," Smith said. "Allen is now home with his family in Miami and our thoughts and prayers are with him."

Smith said Edwards' status for tomorrow's game is uncertain.

With or without Edwards, UK (25-4, 13-2) will need another

strong performance to knock off the Gamecocks at home, where USC is 13-0 on the season.

In the first matchup, UK staggered the Gamecocks early with a 17-5 run to start the game, then after South Carolina had cut the lead, the Cats went on another run and led at the half 43-30. UK continued the onslaught in the second half, using a South Carolina head coach Eddie Fogler technical to defeat the Gamecocks.

The Cats displayed a balanced attack as Jeff Sheppard scored 16 and Wayne Turner 15. Nazr Mohammed added 12 points and 8 rebounds and Allen Edwards 12 assists.

UK also held the deadly duo of South Carolina, BJ McKie and Melvin Watson, to relatively sub-par games (36 points, 12-29 shooting and six turnovers).

Heading into this tomorrow's regular season finale, the Cats and Gamecocks will be playing for pride since UK clinched its 39th SEC championship on Wednesday. USC (21-5, 11-4) comes into the game having held off Florida and Georgia in its last two outings.

After sitting out the first half of the Georgia game Tuesday due to a conference-imposed suspension, USC's McKie returned in the second half to lead the Gamecocks to a last-second 78-76 victory. McKie

has been on a hot streak lately, scoring more than 20 points in four of his last six outings, including a 31-point performance against Florida. For the season, McKie is averaging 18.3 points and is shooting 41.3 percent from three-point range.

Smith said defensive intensity will be the key to controlling South Carolina.

"Certainly South Carolina has the players that can take you off the dribble like Melvin Watson and BJ McKie," Smith said. "We're going to have to play better on-the-ball defense than we did tonight."

Despite his call for better defense, Smith said UK is playing some of its most impressive basketball right now.

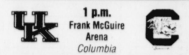
"We're playing probably as well as we've played in awhile," Smith said. "We're playing more consistent for a longer stretch in the game. We're playing better basketball right now."

Fogler applauded UK's performance in January.

"I thought Kentucky, from the opening tip, played extremely well, were extremely focused and shot very, very well," Fogler said. "I was very impressed with Kentucky. I hope we can catch them not shooting the ball as well as they did."

Despite UK's clinching of the regular season title, Fogler said

UK vs South Carolina



1 p.m.
Frank McGuire Arena
Columbia
TV: CBS (Channel 27) Radio: 590-AM WVKL

#7 Kentucky Wildcats (25-4)

Probable Starters	PPG	PPG	RPG
G Wayne Turner	9.1	3.1	
G Jeff Sheppard	12.6	3.8	
F Allen Edwards	8.8	3.3	
F Scott Padgett	11.0	6.6	
C Nazr Mohammed	12.2	7.5	

#14 S. Carolina Gamecocks (21-5)

Probable Starters	PPG	PPG	RPG
G Melvin Watson	11.5	4.1	
G BJ McKie	18.3	3.6	
F Ryan Stack	9.7	6.0	
F Antonio Grant	7.2	4.3	
C William Gallman	6.2	6.0	

UK women pleased with high SEC marks

Rivera places first, breaks diving record

By Mike Heppermann
Staff Writer

The basketball team has not competed in the Southeastern Conference Tournament yet, but UK has already seen considerable success at the SECs.

The UK women's swimming and diving team grabbed its highest finish since 1995, and the men brought home an SEC-record score in the diving portion of the SEC Championships last week in Gainesville, Fla.

The women finished fourth with a score of 500.3 and men's senior diver Paco Rivera set an SEC record 814.5 score on the platform. Rivera's first-place finish was the first time in 41 years a swimmer or diver from the men's team finished in first place in an individual event at the SEC meet. Roger Messick grabbed first place in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyles for UK at the 1957 SEC Championships.

"It was the most amazing feeling I've ever had," Rivera said.

His fun didn't end after the tournament, though. His feat was noted at halftime of UK's game against Georgia on Sunday, as he and diving coach Mike Lyden stood at half court.

"I was shaking. I thought I was going to trip or something."

Junior Rachel Komisarz notched the Cats' only other victory, getting first in the women's 200 butterfly. She was too excited to even notice her score in the event.

"I just saw that I won and I didn't care about anything else," she said.

Komisarz totaled 53 individual points to finish fourth in the final individual standings.

The UK men finished seventh at the meet with 244 points. Head coach Gary Conely expressed split feelings over the teams' overall performance.

"We were real pleased with the way the women placed," he said, "but we were a little disappointed that the men didn't do better because we think we're a better team than that."

The women went into their

competition in second place after the diving portion of the meet. Junior Christy Soulikis and freshman Sarah Fields finished in the top four on the platform, finishing third and fourth, respectively.

After the first day of swimming competition, the women had moved into third place and the men moved up from fifth to fourth.

Komisarz liked UK's position at the start of the meet.

"We thought we might be able to beat Florida," she said. "But, we tied for the highest finish the women ever had, so we were happy."

Georgia brought home the women's title with a score of 794, and Auburn took the men's by finishing with 538 points.

Sophomore Courtney Shealey of Georgia swam the women's 100

freestyle in 49.34 seconds, the fastest time in that event in the nation this year.

For the UK men, sophomore Nat Lewis notched a third-place finish in the 1650 freestyle. Senior Leigh Dalton also posted third in the 1650 freestyle for the women. Sophomore Annabel Koston added the women's cause by finishing third in the 100 freestyle, and freshman Melissa Olson placed fifth in the 200 backstroke.

Now UK gears up for a meet at Indiana, the teams' last chance to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

"It looks like there will be eight women swimmers to go (to the NAAs), which is five more than we've ever had go before," Conely said. "We hope to pick up at least two divers and that's a pretty good size squad."

SPORTSbytes

UK travels West to face difficult Long Beach State

The UK baseball team travels to Long Beach, Calif., for a three-game series beginning today. The Cats (3-3) will face Long Beach (2-8) tonight at 10:05 EST, followed by 4:05 p.m. EST starts tomorrow and Sunday. UK will start left-hander Jason

Chaney (1-0) in tonight's series opener. Right-handers Josh Paxton (1-0) and Aaron McGlone (0-0) will start on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

The Cats' trip to Long Beach marks their fourth consecutive weekend road swing. The series concludes UK's month-long road trip, and the Cats' home opener is set for March 3 against Lincoln Memorial.

Senior David Cheatle paces the Cats' offense, hitting a team-leading .520. Cheatle has hit safely in all six games, as have Jason Colemire and McGlone.

Tourney time for softball team

The UK softball team continues its early-season tournament swing this weekend, traveling to Carbondale, Ill., for the 1998 Southern Classic.

The tournament, hosted by SIU-Carbondale, also features Northern Illinois, Southeast Missouri, Bradley and Eastern Illinois. The Cats (4-6) open play tomorrow with a 9 a.m. game against Northern Illinois.

The Wildcats' top offensive threat is Leslie Kwiatkowski. The freshman from South Bend, Ind., leads UK with a .333 batting aver-

age and 5 runs batted in.

The Southern Classic marks the third tournament of the season for UK. The Cats' home opener is set for March 3, a doubleheader against Dayton.

Rugby club faces IU

The third-ranked UK rugby club takes on No. 1 IU tomorrow at the Club Sports Field of Alumni Drive. Match time is 1 p.m.

UK is coming off an 81-0 waxing of Eastern Kentucky last weekend. Admission for Saturday's match is free.

Compiled from staff reports.

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It's that time again!
SGA Elections
are coming up!

Filing deadline for President Vice-President, College Senator, and Senator-at-Large candidates is Wednesday, March 4 at 4 p.m. Remember, signatures are required for filing this year.

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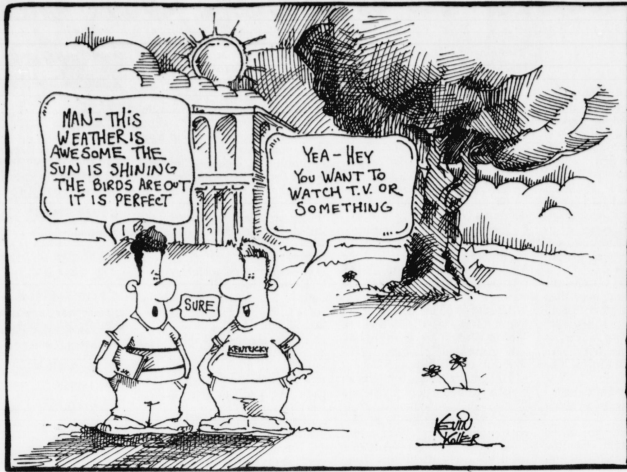
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Bah humbug!

That's it! We're through! The whining ends here! (Well, almost)

Aren't we all little sick of hearing about apathetic students? Every year we go round-around about how we can "energize" the student body like it was that damn pink bunny.

Campus leaders sit solemnly in the dark, atop their beds, listening to Huey Lewis, burning incense and chanting: "If only we can show them our relevance to their lives. If only ..."

If you want student involvement, you must give them a rallying cry. Students need something or someone they can relate to and trust. That relationship has to be built over a period of time. Nebulous half hour meetings that will be attended by a few conscientious citizen-students just won't do it.

We suggest that SGA pick a few choice battles that really rile students up and make something happen. Success breeds success and we need more high profile successes that all students benefit from before they take an active interest in SGA or other university bodies.

IN OUR OPINION

The latest proposal comes from the Student Government Association and requires senators to hold public forums each semester. On the surface, it sounds like a nice idea, but how many of you will really attend? Most likely the audience will consist of some friends or maybe down mates down the hall. Realistically, this will become more of a formality than a true means of change for UK students.

We don't want to rain on SGA's parade, but the odds of this measure succeeding are about as likely as the students electing a bongo-beating patriot to the SGA's presidency. (Oh, wait ... they did that.)

The SGA should rally its forces to do the following: 1) Improve lower arena seating at Rupp; 2) Improve recreational facilities today, not down the road; 3) Kill the required food account for on-campus students; 4) Dump Fourth Quarter Grill and bring in a Wendy's or Burger King; 5) Get work underway to consolidate undergraduate housing into one area; 6) Push for the construction of a true student center.

Admittedly it's a tall order, but shouldn't we be reaching for the stars?

So tell me, when does "South Park" come on?

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READERS' forum

Good intentions will not improve student apathy

To the editor:

I admire the concern of senators who introduced the amendment to the SGA constitution. It would require candidates for SGA office to produce a petition signed by a large number of their constituents before being granted access to the ballot.

Today any student with an idea and a qualifying grade-point average can have his name put on the ballot. Even if a student is not involved in any student organizations he still has a legitimate shot at winning. What this amendment does is require a certain threshold of visibility before access to the ballot is granted.

Only the most popular among us and those already involved in campus activities, can surmount this imposing barrier to the polls.

If the Senate really believes this new requirement will increase the visibility of SGA and make the candidates more accountable, I believe they are sorely mistaken.

For example, a candidate, who happens to live in a fraternity house, can get his fraternity brothers to sign his petition and then go next door to another fraternity house and ask all of its members sign it. Back-scratching and petition-trading would result, not a public campus dialogue.

Meanwhile, a lonely student with an idea wouldn't be permitted access to the ballot because hasn't been active on campus.

If SGA wants to do something, it should do whatever is in its power to include that very same student with an idea. It shouldn't set up barriers to involvement.

A better solution would be to require candidates to submit a position paper addressing a specific set of questions and issues. The position papers could then be compiled and published in the Kentucky Kernel, or in a voter's guide published by SGA. Then

every candidate would be on an even ground with each of his opponents. Their positions would be spelled out in black and white, and the candidates with the best ideas would win.

Alternatively, candidates could be required to participate in at least one town hall-style discussion. Again, the candidates would have the chance to persuade the voters of the merits of their ideas.

But if the Senate adopts this measure before it, the problem purportedly addressed by it will only be exacerbated. The amendment was favored 21-3 at the previous meeting of the Senate. It may be a lost cause to hope that those Senators who supported the measure change their vote.

I hope that the Student Senate will vote down the measure. It would be a vote to serve as a testament to the student body that the Senate is open to everyone with an idea, even if you're not the most popular.

Aaron Stilleto
political science junior

TALKback!

Readers are encouraged to submit letters to the editor and guest opinions to the Viewpoint page in person or by mail.

Address your comments to "Letters to the Editor", Kentucky Kernel Editorial Editor; 35 Enoch J. Grehan Journalism Building; UK; Lexington, Ky. 40506-0042. Send electronic mail to kernel@pop.uky.edu.

Letters should be approximately 250 words; guest opinions should be no longer than 850 words.

All material should be type-written and double-spaced, but hand-written will be accepted if it is legible.

Include your name and major classification (for publication), as well as your address and telephone number for verification.

Check out the Kentucky Kernel on-line at www.KyKernel.com for more letters to the editor.

Dining options are due for a hostile takeover

Private enterprise might provide a better cost/quality

It only seems like every story quoting a University official in the past fifteen months has concluded with every one of them saying the reason they act the way they do is because UK is a business.

That said, perhaps we need to contact the Better Business Bureau, because UK is cheating students out of their money. All of you who live on campus are forced to pay \$675 at the beginning of each semester. The money is put into the wonderful UK Diner Account.



Matt Ellison
Kernel
Columnist

It seems so easy. Just swipe your card and presto! Wonderful food appears before your eyes.

However, there are a few problems. First of all, the food isn't wonderful. One can only take so many chicken nuggets and baked potatoes before one grows tired of the same old fare. Even people from South Campus have told me they grow tired of eating food at Commons. Fourth Quarter burgers, despite what the satisfaction survey says, are not better than any major fast-food chain. And the food is blatantly overpriced in order to subsidize a program that claims to receive no money from the state.

The argument goes that if UK opened up its food service to outside companies such as Burger King or Pizza Hut, then UK Food Services would go right out of business. But as it stands, UK Food Services makes a profit as slim as Kate Moss after a diet.

Perhaps we should look to our neighbors (and Thursday night drinking buddies) at Eastern Kentucky University. EKVU recently attempted to require students to open a dining account if they lived on campus. But students were outraged at this proposal and they lodged complaints with EKVU administration. And you know what happened?

IT WORKED!

The plan was quickly tabled pending further response from officials and students won't have to pay this required fee.

We could do a similar study of benchmark institutions. After all, isn't that what UK enjoys doing every week or so? We could examine the food service policies around the state and the region and we could find whatever possible conclusions that we find.

But it wouldn't change this simple fact: The powers that be at this University simply don't care

what you think.

Aside from an occasional student satisfaction survey that takes years to complete and will probably result in next to nothing, students are not welcome to offer their opinions. Let me rephrase that: Students are welcome to offer their opinions, but administrators are just as free to ignore them.

An argument I've heard against eliminating the diner card requirement is that UK Food Services would go out of business, since no one would eat at its dining establishments anymore.

Well, isn't this the same institution that claims it makes a minimal profit anyway? So what would be so terrible about incorporating consumer choice and a free market into the matter of filling student stomachs? How about improving the quality of food and lowering the prices somewhat? Nah. Ideas would never happen, because the powers that be wouldn't deem it worth their time.

What about asking for student input when it comes to raising tuition 23 percent? After all, if this University is a business (as it so often claims to be), it would care about the consumer reaction to this move. But that's where the business analogy falls apart.

This is not a business. This is a monopoly.

If you want to enroll at UK, you are stuck living by the decisions of people whose names and faces you'll never recognize, save for the opening of orientation. There is no accountability at UK. From tenured professors to administrators who have lifetime contracts, there are too many people who have no obligation to listen to those beneath them.

An inadequate system of checks and balances often leads to dictatorship and rule by tyrants, at least so my political science classes have taught me. So is that what we have here?

You be the judge. At the end of the year when you still have \$100 left on your diner card and see it disappear into the pockets of UK, you decide whether you agree with what I've said.

I have decided to live off campus next year, regardless of the costs. The current diner card policy is one of many reasons why. And unless things start to change, don't expect me to bequeath any of my massive future wealth to this University, unless I can use it to reimburse students for the money they lose each year to UK Food Services.

Kernel Columnist Matt Ellison is a journalism sophomore.

INFORMED SOURCES "EVERY NIGHT in the United States, an estimated 27,000 condoms break."

Linda Ashton, an AP staff writer, reporting on the need for emergency contraception or "morning-after" pills.

Fraternity hijinks turn cool party into a mindless hell

At the small undergrad college I attended, Delta Kappa Sigma (not-so-fondly known as Dekes) was considered the hell-raising fraternity. Apparently its mission was to haze, hit on and harass as many people as possible without being arrested.

My introduction to them was inauspicious to say the least. The night before fall classes, several members were staging their annual "party raid" in front of the freshmen women's dorm.

Since the building was always locked, the ceremony was actually an excuse for the fraternity and women to smear whipped cream and chocolate sauce on each other without bothering to undress.

I threw a raw egg at one guy. It hit him on the ankle — and, to my stupefaction, bounced off. He shouted, "HEY! That hurt!" I dropped my carton and dove into

the crowd of spectators, but he darted over and grabbed me by my leg. Then he clamped me, sitting down, between his knees and uncapped a Hershey's can. I thought he should have buttered him where it counted but I was petrified.

He dumped the whole glut on my head at once — the lid had been chewed off with an can opener, not merely punched — and rubbed it into my hair. "Don't worry," he crooned, "this is just party life at college."

I wailed to myself, "What have I gotten myself into?"

Later, some friends and I were peering through the dark at a gaggle of squealing girls being pushed into a mud puddle. One of them gushed, "Beverly, you're bleeding! It's all over your face!"

Under the notion that brown and dark red look the same in the dark, I said, "It's

just chocolate sauce."

She took my hand and traced my finger down my face. "Taste it."

I had the coppery tang of blood.

I crept into the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house and asked if I could use their bathroom. A sympathetic guy led me there, gave me a towel and even disinfected the slash on my scalp. The Deke had wounded me with the jagged edge of the Hershey can.

Two weeks later, the Dekes struck again with a sign in the dining commons. The whole campus ate there and posters on the wall were seen by everyone. But instead of an announcement for a party, club meeting, or hot tub-a-thon, it was the annual Deke "Hurt Me" list.

"These are the girls we think are so sweet. These are the girls that we'd like to meat (sic)/So let's raise our glasses and give a big toast/These are the girls who hurt us the most."

This charming ditty was followed by the names of the 10 "hottest" freshmen. No, I wasn't honored with a place on the list. Those who were didn't know whether to be flattered or offended. (Incidentally, one of them was pregnant by November.)

Serenades were the next fraternity tradition. Each Tuesday night, a different frat would sing in front of our dorm. The Dekes belted: "Everybody says that I'm an asshole/An asshole I guess I'll always be/But I'd rather be an asshole/Than a goddamn SAE!"

Their other song was an elaborate come-on that was so disgusting I've blocked it out. All I remember is the final two lines: "Two brass balls and a long steel rod/I'm a motherfuckin' Deke and I'm proud, by God!"

I muttered, "Better scrub back to your grungy quad/We are unimpressed women and we think you're clods."

But the most, ah, memorable tradition of this esteemed brotherhood were the treecings. Any Deke who shirked a woman was seen as a turncoat. His beloved "brothers" would get him drunk, strip him naked and walk him all the way across campus (sometimes in the snow). Then they'd bind him to a tree in front of the woman's dorm with a rope and pour various substances on him.

Syrup and eggs made an appearance again, as did engine oil and turpentine. But worst of all were various body fluids. Quick, think of four substances that commonly exit from orifices (especially on party night). Yes, all of them (except for those exclusive to females) were dumped on this poor guy's head.

"Gosh," the woman next to me at the window whispered. "All our sorority does is pass around a candle."

Kernel Columnist Beverly Spitzer is a library and information sciences graduate student.



Beverly Spitzer
Kernel
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in the Afterglow

Rudolph's latest takes a wry look at marriage

By Dan O'Neill
Associate Editor

Writer/director Alan Rudolph proves there is an art to making the unremarkable. By conventional film standards, his latest film *Afterglow* lacks the ubiquitous spectacle but, by doing so, achieves something quite spectacular in itself.

Set in Montreal, Rudolph's film devises a four-part character study to offer a humorous yet poignant portrait of two failing marriages.

One couple consists of Lucky (Nick Nolte), a fix-it-all repairman who philanders with the lonely women who hire him, and his wife Phyllis (Julie Christie), a depressed, former B-movie actress. We come to find they have a strange agreement — one in which she accepts his infidelities and refuses his romantic attempts at rekindling the relationship.

In a trendy apartment across town, another couple slugs out their own problems. The icy hus-

band Jeffrey (Johnny Lee Miller of *Transcending*), enamored in his work, ignores his wife's (Lara Flynn Boyle) desperate desire to have a baby. While ovulating, she tries to seduce him with sexy night wear only to be ignored again. In many ways, their apartment acts as a metaphor for their relationship — valuable on the outside but in need of many repairs.

That's where Lucky comes in. When Mariame (Boyle) hires him to fix a few things and build a nursery, her long-standing sexual neglect leads her into an affair. Meanwhile, Phyllis and Jeffrey meet while trying to spy on their respective mates at the Ritz Hotel. Unaware of each other's identity, they too indulge in adulterous behavior.

Although the premise looks like something out of a soap opera, Rudolph maintains a staunch realism, never letting it reach the point of melodrama. He approaches it with a keen eye for portraying the non-



Photo furnished

RADIANT GLOW Julie Christie's role in the Alan Rudolph film *'Afterglow,'* captured an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. Nick Nolte and Lara Flynn Boyle also star. The film plays exclusively at the Kentucky Theatre.

romantic side of love that is both comedic and unforgiving.

A description of the title comes in a first act scene with Lucky and Phyllis discussing their disillusioned relationship. After Christie surrenders to despondency with, "The hardest part is finding out too late that none of it lasts," Nolte counters with an analogy comparing failing relationships to burnt-out light bulbs. He compares finding happiness, after things look destined to fail, with the light that remains after a bulb burns out, or what Christie calls

the afterglow.

Rudolph began his career in the 1970s working under Robert Altman who produced *Afterglow*. Although Altman's influence is apparent, Rudolph develops a style unique to himself. His camera consistently moves toward characters, to the point of close-up, before slowly pulling back to establish an eerie distance between the audience and characters. This subtle yo-yo effect works to provide the film with a peculiar mood and quaint realism.

His directing style, however,

much like his writing, is rather unassuming as he focuses more on developing characters and coaching performance. In this case, charming performances of characters who can't see their own charm give the film its attractive luster.

Christie, whose performance received an Oscar nomination for Best Actress, shows rare cinematic grace as an aging woman disconcerted with her life. Likewise, Nolte plays his blue collar handyman with casual conviction and Boyle turns in a memorable offering as the neurotic, nubile

housewife.

Their characters are not particularly charming or lovable, nor are their predicaments sympathetic. But each carry a repertoire of amusing, yet subtle, quirks difficult to encapsulate with words.

They contribute to the film's subtlety and ambiguity that, although not always comfortable for viewers, accounts for its engaging qualities. Ultimately, *Afterglow* wins by recognizing it doesn't need high drama or romance to give life to a set of characters who already embody it.



MOVIE review

★★★★

(out of five)

'Afterglow'

Sony Pictures

Classics

UK Theater tackles another Simon play



JAMES CRISP/Kentucky staff

SIMON SAYS UK Theater began its stage performances of Neil Simon's *'Rumors'* last night at the Guignol Theatre. The show continues through March 8.

By Colleen McClanahan
Staff Writer

Everyone knows that the more you plan something, the more likely it is to go awry. It's a clause in Murphy's Law.

Neil Simon's play *Rumors* capitalizes on this idea, and the result is a piece of comedy to brighten those weeks during midterms when the idea of having fun is about as foreign as that French test you have to take in two days.

Simon's work is often performed at UK, some notable instances being last year's *Brighton Beach Memoirs* show and *Fools* a few years back. His work is comic and lighthearted, with a touch of sophistication here and there.

Most of Simon's works become instant classics. Quality

theater abounds and laughter prevails with UK's latest tribute to the writer, *Rumors*.

Rumors revolves around a dinner party being held by a very powerful and influential couple in celebration of their 10th anniversary. However, technically the party never begins, because it appears the host has attempted to kill himself (resulting in a mere flesh wound), and his wife is nowhere to be found.

His lawyer decides on a cover-up and as more guests arrive, it's unclear who knows what.

In the midst of these happenings, an unhappy couple is having a disagreement and rumors of affairs run rampant.

The final blow to the confused dinner guests come when the police show up, and

everyone bonds together in hopes of not ruining the hosts' reputation.

Remember playing "telephone" when you were a child in elementary school, and the original message became distorted beyond belief by the end?

Put that into an adult context, and imagine what could happen when the goal is to keep the person on the end from finding out the original message. The only possible result is unadulterated mayhem.

Director James Rodgers said *Rumors* appeals to a college audience because of the humor and the time of year it falls.

"Students love comedy, especially farces," he said. "This is the time of the year when we need laugh, and this is an

opportunity to let go."

Senior Hadley Combs, who plays Chris Gorman, said "*Rumors* is pure entertainment for us, every night we're surprised what's going to happen, we're thrown off by each other because we're so funny."

Assistant Stage Manager Keri Walls said *Rumors* will be enjoyable for students.

"It's a couple hours of fun," Walls said. "It's far from serious. When you weigh it against a large portion of material that UK's doing this year, it's a bright, happy piece."

Rumors opened last night in the Guignol Theatre and continues its run until March 8. Shows are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for students and \$10 for the general public.

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