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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008

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Kentucky fails on premature birth rates

By Rachelle Halliburton
news@kykernel.com

Kentucky has received an "F" in a national ranking on premature births, a national charity dedicated to improving prenatal and infant health announced this week.

In a report released Wednesday, the March of Dimes rated Kentucky 46th out of 50 states.

The grading method of the March of Dimes' 2008 Premature Birth Report Card is based on grades "A" to "F," with the prem birth rate for infants in each state determining the grade. An "A" would mean a state has a prem birth rate less than or equal to 7.6 percent, while "F" would mean a state has a prem birth rate greater than or equal to 13.2 percent. Kentucky's rate is 15.2 percent.

Lisa Echsner, state director of the March of Dimes for Kentucky, says three factors mentioned in the report card were whether or not a woman smokes, whether a woman goes to the doctor and whether the woman will have an early Caesarean section to deliver her baby.

"Kentucky got an 'F' because the state had some high risk factors, such as a high number of women that smoke and women not having insurance, which results in them not getting to a doctor in the early stages of pregnancy, if at all," Echsner said.

The March of Dimes will release a new report every year but will not have good data for a few years, Echsner said.

Echsner said the biggest factor that needs to be worked on in Kentucky is smoking, especially if pregnant women are smoking.

See **Premature** on page 8

Speaker: Google system good for more than searches

By Alex Bleich
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Millions of people use the search engine Google every day. On Friday, the UK community will be able learn about what makes the Web site tick.

In the lecture "Data-Intensive Super Computing: Taking Google-Style Computing Beyond Web Search," Randal E. Bryant will talk about how Google works and how the technology the search engine uses will be applicable in the future. The lecture is at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the W.T. Young Library.

Google has an extremely effective way of organizing and presenting information, said Mirosław Truszczyński, host of the lecture. Search engines such as Google are actually publicly accessible super computers. Google and their competitors are now using a new class of large-scale computer systems: Data-Intensive Super Computers, or DISCs.

Because of their ability to acquire and maintain continually changing data sets, there is the potential that these DISCs would lead to breakthroughs in science, health care and business, Truszczyński said.

Any field that uses large amounts of data could be a potential application as well, he said.

See **Google** on page 8

Cost impacts travel plans

By Rosalind Essig
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Students choosing between flying and driving home for Thanksgiving will see prices much different than last year.

The averages for domestic airfares were up 8.1 percentage points in the second quarter of 2008 from the second quarter of 2007, according to an Oct. 29 news release from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

The averages for regular gas prices in Lexington, Kentucky and across the country are down from a year ago. The national average is down 90 cents from this time last year, with the Kentucky and Lexington averages even lower, said Christopher Lakford, a Lexington AAA

online
www.kykernel.com

Price comparisons for travel by plane, car and bus to locations around the U.S.

spokesman.

It used to be too expensive to drive and flying home was a better option, but this year was different, said Julie Knudsen, a UK student from Illinois.

"It's been under a hundred dollars every time I (flew) home and this year it's close to \$200," Knudsen said.

"The hardest thing with Thanksgiving is that everyone wants to travel from Wednesday to Sunday," Silvestri said, adding students especially face this because of classes.

Flexibility with dates generally means better availability, Silvestri said.

After weighing the options with his family, Alvin Lane, from Illinois, said the shorter time and greater convenience of flying were deciding factors.

"It would be the easiest for all of us," Lane said. "And it's such a short amount of time you don't want to lose some of it by driving."

Buses are another option for students traveling home for Thanksgiving.

Greyhound raised ticket prices 3 percentage points across

the board in April and has been seeing numbers consistent with last year, with a slight drop in some cases, said Greyhound spokeswoman Abby Wambaugh. Gas makes up less than 10 percent of operating costs, Wambaugh said. The increase in ticket prices is for other operating costs that go up each year, such as maintaining terminals.

With airfares on the rise, and despite gas prices being down nearly \$1 from this time last year, long distance Thanksgiving travel is expected to be down, according to figures from AAA.

AAA is forecasting a slight decrease from last year in the total number of people traveling

See **Travel** on page 8

MOVING BIRDS OFF CAMPUS



PHOTOS BY EMILY COVERT | STAFF

Jerry Hart, a horticulturist for UK's Physical Plant Division, prepares to shoot a Screaming Siren up into the air to scare off what he deemed to be several thousand cowbirds. Hart, who has been shooting the sirens on South Campus, said he believes the Screaming Sirens are the most humane way to try to get the birds to leave.

Big bang theory

By Hope Smith
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UK's Physical Plant Division has found a solution to the temporary bird problem on South Campus — scare them away with a loud, whistling noise.

The thousands of small black birds that can be seen circling the skies near dusk in search of overnight shelter are cowbirds.

If cowbirds are permitted to gather in trees and parking structures on campus it could be a problem, said Jerry Hart, a horticulturist for UK's Physical Plant Division. The division has gathered a team of six to go out at dusk four to five nights per week to scare the

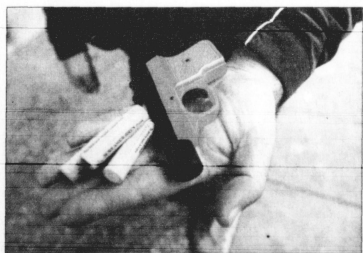
birds off campus.

"They try to land around dusk and congregate in the trees ... They like foliage, they feel safe there," Hart said.

The safest and most effective way to move the birds is to use a special handgun, similar to those used at track and field meets, to fire a "Screamer Siren" into the air near where the birds are flying, said UK spokesman Carl Nathe.

The 15mm Screamer Sirens shoot up about 60 feet in the air "screaming." If the birds are kept out of the trees and continually flying instead of landing in the trees, they eventually get tired and travel off campus, Nathe said.

See **Firecracker** on page 8



Hart holds Screaming Sirens in his hand, along with the gun used to fire them. The sirens cause a loud screeching noise that frightens what Hart estimates to be over 10,000 black cowbirds away from campus.

Calligrapher pencils in weekend workshop to teach art form

By Rachel Spoor
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His type is everywhere — on toys, watches and even soup products.

This weekend, calligrapher and typographer Paul Shaw will be at UK to teach students the same techniques he has used to design for compa-

nies like Mattel, Rolex, Avon and Campbell Soup. Shaw will hold a lecture and calligraphy workshop this Friday and Saturday at the Margaret I. King Library.

Shaw teaches calligraphy at Parsons School of Design in New York.

At 7 p.m. Friday, Shaw will give a lecture on "The

Books of W. A. Dwiggins" about a book designer, type designer, calligrapher and author who founded the Society of Calligraphers in Boston in 1919 and became the first to describe himself as a "graphic designer."

This lecture will take place in the Great Hall at the M. I. King Library and will

be open and free to the public. The calligraphy workshop will be held Saturday at 9 a.m. in the King Library Press, located in the M. I. King Library. The graphic design seminar Saturday will feature practice in Rotunda Hand calligraphy.

"The Rotunda Hand is a type of writing that is sort of

medieval-looking," M. I. King librarian Jim Birchfield said.

He said that Shaw will give lessons on the art of calligraphy using examples of text and exercises to practice.

Birchfield also said for those who register for the workshop, a continental breakfast of doughnuts, orange juice and coffee will be provided

beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

He recommends people bring their own lunch, but all materials needed for the workshop will be provided.

To register for the workshop, call (859) 257-8408 or (859) 257-1742 or contact kljdb@uky.edu. The cost for the workshop is \$25.

SUDOKU

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Horoscopes

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

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — You're in the mood to catch up on your reading. When you get like this, you can devour stacks of books and magazines.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Follow through on the projects you've already begun. Work is involved, but it isn't as hard as it used to be. Don't go shopping until the check clears, however.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 7 — You're so busy you may not be in much of an affectionate mood. You're trying to figure out how much you have, and what goes where. Set a date for early next week.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 7 — Some of the most important work takes

place behind the scenes. You can find out, for example, what's really going on.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — There's no time for long conversations, but you can update your plan. Also, make sure your assistants know how much you appreciate their efforts.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — Follow through on a project that you've already begun. When this is done, you'll have accomplished big changes for the better at home. It isn't going to be easy, but it will be worth the effort.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — You're able to reach out a little farther, and make the difficult look easy. Accept input and support from far away. It can light a fire under you and encourage you to stop procrastinating.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — Better check the balance sheets while you're in the mood. You're making big

plans and it's always good to know where your resources are.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Don't be distracted by somebody who's trying to get your attention. Finish whatever you're working on first, or there will be trouble. Hardly anything you do goes unnoticed lately.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — You're in the mood to get things done, but caution is advised. Make sure you get a contract, so you'll know how much you'll be making.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 5 — You can dream about adventures, but it's not easy to get away. You'd have to leave a whole pile of stuff that you've been meaning to do.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — It can be difficult to listen to people who don't agree with you. It's a marvelous skill to acquire, however. Just let them know you understand, and that you'll think about it.

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kernel POP

Gossip Girls' steady romance

Blake Lively and Penn Badgely are going strong

"Things are great with them," says a mutual friend of the pair. "They're very close and just really happy." The easygoing couple recently celebrated Badgely's 22nd birthday, and before the bash, the laid-back actor told Us his dream birthday activity: "My ideal would be just to go to a bar at 11 in the morning and watch a soccer game."

When they're not filming, Lively, 21, and her man spend most of their free time together, says the source, and even collaborated on a Barack Obama ad for MoveOn.org. "It's something I care about," Badgely told Us, "so I was glad to do my bit."

met someone who has her same laid-back mentality," the pal tells Us. "She tells all her friends how happy she is!" Seconds a Jonze pal of her relationship, "It's really strong right now."

Matthew and Camila hit the road

Deep in the heart of Texas, Matthew McConaughey has been showing girlfriend Camila Alves, 25, and their 4-month-old son, Levi, his roots. After visiting the actor's mother, Kay McConaughey — who tells Us of her grandson, "He's beautiful, just so mellow!" — the family took to his famous Airstream trailer, in which McConaughey, 39, has been giving them a tour of his home state. "Levi's going to grow up to be a wonderful guy who loves life!" says Grandma.

Jesse chooses Deanna

"I'm pretty psyched to have met the woman of my dreams," Jesse Csincsak told Us after proposing to Bachelorette DeAnna Pappas on the July 7 finale of the reality hit's fourth season. And now the dream is over: The couple, who had been planning for a May 2009 wedding, split in early November. "DeAnna broke up with me," Csincsak, 26, said in a video posted on their Web

site Nov. 3. "I did everything in my power to try and make this work, and she's a great person, but she wasn't willing to try anymore." That's a far cry from the ecstatic Pappas who told Us in July. "I truly believe I have met the person I am meant to be with."

Simon and Terri call it quits

After six years of dating, Simon Cowell and Terri Seymour have called it quits. "It happened about a month ago," a rep for the American Idol judge, 49, told Us on Nov. 1, adding that Seymour had initiated the split. "It was coming. It wasn't a shock." Indeed; the Extra correspondent seemed to have moved on in September, when she was seen with actor Stephen Dorff, 35, at West Hollywood's Chateau Marmont. "He was caressing Terri's leg. Then they left together," an onlooker says. But don't expect hard feelings. Says Cowell's rep, "Simon and Terri will be friends. They have so much history."

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Parking for the open house is free and convenient. You may park in either the UK Good Samaritan Hospital garage or on the surface lot located behind the Medical Plaza building. Please come to the Medical Plaza building, located at 125 East Maxwell Street, to sign in and to begin your visit.

For more information about the services offered at UK Good Samaritan Hospital, please call 257-1000.

UKHealthCare
 Good Samaritan Hospital

2008 KENTUCKY VOLLEYBALL

Tonight
 #22 UK (23-4, 14-2)
 vs.
 South Carolina (19-6, 10-5)
 7:00 pm

Sunday
 #22 UK (23-4, 14-2)
 vs.
 #12 Florida (20-2, 14-1)
 1:30 pm

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SCORE

Bobby Reagan
Asst. Sports Editor
breagan@kykernel.com



Sophomore outside hitter Sarah Rumley and the Cats will try to end a 38-game losing streak to Florida on Sunday at Memorial Coliseum.

PHOTO BY
ALIE GARZA
STAFF

Major road block

Florida stands in the way of Cats' SEC Championship hopes

By Metz Canfield
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Nov. 10, 1990.

That was the last time the UK volleyball team beat the Florida Gators. At the time UK freshman middle blocker Becky Pavan was only six months old and freshman middle blocker Gretchen Giesler wasn't even born.

Since that infamous date, the Gators have strung out an improbable 38-game winning streak over the Cats. All of that could come to a halt on Sunday though, as the Cats (23-4, 14-2 Southeastern Conference) take on Florida with a shot at the SEC championship on the line.

Florida extended its streak over the Cats to 38 on Oct. 10, in a five-set match that junior setter Sarah Rumley

said wasn't nearly the best UK could play. Despite the fact it was only the second time the Cats had taken the Gators to five sets since the 1990 match, don't tell UK's players about close calls.

"There are no moral victories," Rumley said. "We have to get that 'W' in order to be happy, and we're not going to be happy unless we win the rest of our games this year."

The Gators lost a surprising match a few weeks later to Georgia, but after the Cats' loss to Ole Miss last weekend, they still find themselves one game back of the Gators. With only four games remaining on the slate for UK, the match against Florida this weekend will be one of UK's last opportunities to take down the champs. And while everyone wasn't willing to openly express their desire to beat

Florida, the thought of taking them down brought a few smiles.

"We're beating Florida," senior middle blocker Queen Nzenwa said. "If we beat them that also puts us in the running to be at the top in the SEC this year... Yes, it's more than just another game."

The leader of the Gators success has been Mary Wise, a former associate head coach at UK from 1986-1990. Those five years also happen to be some of UK's most successful seasons in program history. At Florida, Wise has established a perennial powerhouse. More significant to UK is the fact that Florida yet again stands in the path of the Cats in their quest to win their first SEC championship since 1988.

See Volleyball on page 4

Football deserves autumn attention

November is always a special time in Kentucky. The cool breeze moving through the air sends a warning of winter fast approaching and has many Kentuckians anticipating yet another quest to the elusive Final Four. UK basketball, the longtime pride of the Bluegrass, overshadows everything else that mattered just weeks ago.



J.D. WILLIAMS
Kernel columnist

And what mattered weeks ago was a football team that ranked among the strongest defenses in the nation.

What's left is a team that can still accomplish a feat that hasn't been achieved at UK in years — a trip to three consecutive bowls. And a coach that can win eight regular season games, a person-

at best at UK.

Both are goals UK head coach Rich Brooks said will help define this year's senior class's legacy. UK has won both the 2006 and 2007 Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl game, defeating Clemson and Florida State.

Senior linebacker Braxton Kelley said achieving the two goals set by Brooks would help contribute to the turnaround of UK's football program.

"If we go out with eight wins this season, it would be huge," Kelley said. It would be a better season than we had last year, and we all know the type of talent that we lost from last year's team, and how teams around the nation gained respect for us so that we could be where we are today."

For the time being football, not basketball, deserves the spotlight in November. The last two games on UK's regular season schedule and the following bowl game are more important to UK athletes.

See Williams on page 4

Questions linger for season opener

By Bobby Reagan
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It's finally here. Basketball season has arrived in the Bluegrass. But with questions swirling around Lexington, expectations are raining down on the UK basketball team.

Questions surround the health of sophomore forward Patrick Patterson and junior guard Jodie Meeks, as well as who will play the point guard position. Not to mention the lingering effect of last year's non-conference debacle, which saw defeats at home to teams like Gardner-Webb and San Diego.

However, UK men's basketball head coach Billy Gillispie said he's not worried about any of those situations and looks forward to the new year, which begins against Virginia Military Institute on Friday.

"One thing I feel we've always been able to do is have our players improve," Gillispie said. "Everyone becomes a much better player, and that will be the same with this team."

The Cats will be tested against VMI due to the Keydets' style of play. The Keydets run a 'fun-n-gun' type of

offense, with several players unafraid to shoot the ball. Gillispie said they play an up-tempo kind of game that can cause problems.

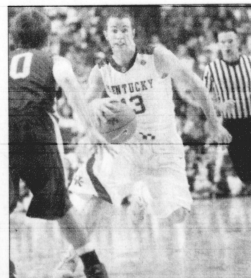
"They are a confident team and they don't worry about missing baskets," Gillispie said. "Those kinds of teams can be dangerous."

VMI forces teams to play their type of game, Gillispie said. The Keydets led the nation in steals and scoring the last two seasons. Last season, VMI averaged 91 points and 13 steals per game. They also led the nation with an average of 12 3-pointers per game.

Gillispie said with VMI, teams get forced to play the up-tempo style, which often leads to turnovers. Gillispie said a mature team can easily combat the style of play the Keydets enforce, but it can be difficult with a young team.

"They will make us play for 40 minutes and face different kinds of offenses and defenses," Gillispie said. "That makes it very difficult for us to prepare, especially at this time of the season. They are masters of getting you to play their type of game."

See Basketball on page 4



Junior point guard Michael Porter attacks Ousaytha Bagrist on Nov. 7 at Rupp Arena. Porter and the rest of the Cats will host VMI in their season opener Friday.

PHOTO BY
ALIE GARZA
STAFF

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VS.



UK VS. VANDERBILT: POSITION BY POSITION

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

Quarterback

If there was ever a team that has as big a quarterback problem as the Cats, it's Vanderbilt. The constant switching between Mackenzi Adams and Chris Nickson is borderline bipolar. Not that UK hasn't been doing its own one-two step.

Adv: UK

Running back

Junior Jared Hawkins is a decent running back, but he only averages 54 yards a game. Meanwhile, UK's running game seemingly got off the ground against Georgia. That may be because of freshman quarterback Randall Cobb, who makes things difficult for defenses, but the Cats should take what they can get.

Adv: UK

Wide receiver

The similarities between the Commodores and UK aren't over yet. Yes, there's another Southeastern Conference team that is in desperate need of someone who doesn't

treat the football like a hot potato. Vanderbilt's No. 2 receiver averages 18 yards a game. Somehow, those 18 yards matter.

Adv: Vandy

Offensive line

UK still gives up the least amount of sacks in the conference. It's a façade, but it gets them one category this week.

Adv: UK

Defensive line

Vanderbilt has more sacks than UK does, even though they've played one less game. But just like UK's offensive line, it's a trick. UK has NFL-ready defensive linemen. The 'Dores just scheme well and play as a unit.

Adv: UK

Linebackers

All season long, the Cats have locked down this category because of their strength as a unit. But Vanderbilt's defense is good and their linebackers are the reason why. Patrick Benoist and Chris Marve both rank in the top

five in tackles in the SEC. UK has two linebackers in the top 10, but that's not good enough this week.

Adv: Vandy

Secondary

If Trevor Lindley were 100 percent, UK would take this close category. But Vandy gets turnovers, and interceptions account for most of them. Second in turnover margin in the SEC, the 'Dores take this one with Lindley's status unsure.

Adv: Vandy

Special teams

Yell, scream and holler that last week mattered on a special teams level. Consistency wins out.

Adv: Vandy

Overall

Vanderbilt started the season 5-0, but has since fallen off the map. If UK's defense rebounds and Cobb limits mistakes, UK may finally be able to crawl out of bowl purgatory in Nashville.

Adv: UK

Crysta ball

Picks for Saturday, Nov. 15

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

- South Carolina at Florida
- Cincinnati at Louisville
- North Carolina at Maryland
- Boston College at Florida State
- BYU at Air Force
- Arizona at Oregon

Alex Hale

UK fan
Record: 46 - 20
Florida
Cincinnati
North Carolina
Florida State
BYU
Oregon

Eric Lindsey

Sports columnist
Record: 44 - 22
Florida
Cincinnati
North Carolina
Florida State
BYU
Oregon

Kenny Colston

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Record: 41 - 25
Florida
Cincinnati
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Boston College
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Brad Luttrell

Editor in chief
Record: 39 - 27
Florida
Cincinnati
North Carolina
Florida State
BYU
Oregon

BASKETBALL

Continued from page 3

While Gillispie is worried about falling into the trap of playing the quick-shot offense that VMI wants them to, he said he doesn't mind playing as fast as possible. In fact, he is encouraging it—that is, as long as during the half-court sets, Patterson gets the ball in the post.

"I want us to play as fast as possible. But that determines on how well we shoot and handle the ball," Gillispie said. "That's not to say we're going to cut Patrick out of the offense because he can play fast. However, in our half-court sets we will be looking for him."

While there is speculation of who will start and

who will see playing time at the point guard position — currently junior Michael Porter leads the way — Gillispie said he isn't worried. He said he has seen good things in Porter, DeAndre Liggins and Kevin Galloway.

Gillispie said he is most excited about having a deep team and not having to worry about players staying on the floor for an unusual amount of minutes each game.

"We have 19 players on the team, and I don't know who is going to play Friday," Gillispie said. "I'm happy with everyone right now and the situation will play itself out. No one is going to have to play the minutes Ramel Bradley and Patrick did last season. That will benefit us, because I believe we have a fairly deep team."

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from page 3

"Florida's won the conference championship for 17 straight years," UK head coach Craig Skinner said. "Until someone (else) wins it, they're the conference champions."

One of the many great players that Florida will put on the court Sunday afternoon will be a familiar face to at least one player for the Cats. Sophomore outside hitter Sarah Mendoza will face off against her former high school teammate and fellow sophomore outside hitter Cal-

lie Rivers.

Rivers, the daughter of the head coach of the 2008 NBA champion Boston Celtics, Doc Rivers, was named to the 2007 SEC All-Freshman team last season. Despite the fact that the two were teammates in high school, Mendoza doesn't find it weird to play against Rivers since the two played against each other a few times in their careers during club play.

"We're not rivals or anything like that," Mendoza said. "It's just like another game for us."

The entire season UK has preched a "one game at a

time" mentality. That mantra perhaps couldn't come to the forefront more than it will this weekend. After all, the Cats have to face a South Carolina squad on Friday that holds a 19-6 record. That would be one of the main reasons why Mendoza believes UK can't put Florida up on a "pedestal."

The season started with a singular goal: to win the SEC championship. Now 27 games into the season, the attitude is the same as it was from day one.

"I think if we play 'Kentucky volleyball' we're capable of beating anyone," Rumley said.

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Whitney Waters, features editor
Emily Foerster, columnist

The opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's unsigned editorials represent the views of a majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor, columns, cartoons and other features on the opinions page reflect the views of their authors and not necessarily those of the Kernel.

■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

Program offers rare opportunity for UK students

There's little doubt this university is a great institution for higher learning. Why else would we be here? There's always room for improvement, but we would like to believe we all attend one of the country's best universities.

That doesn't mean, however, that we shouldn't branch out and experience new places. This university has plenty to offer, but it doesn't have everything.

That's why students should take advantage of UK's National Student Exchange, which offers students the chance to study at another university within the organization for no more than the cost of UK tuition, according to a Kernel article Tuesday. According to the article, the NSE consists of over 200 colleges and universities that stretch across the country. There are also schools in the program at campuses in Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Students should expand their horizons and take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad. For one, the program offers students a chance to take classes that may not be offered at UK, said Kelly Crume, UK's NSE coordinator. That entails a more diverse educational experience and different professors with different viewpoints.

The program also gives students a chance to explore the world at a cheaper cost. Some students might have wanted to go to a college other than UK but couldn't afford it because of out-of-state tuition. Have you dreamed of studying on the sandy beaches of the Virgin Islands or heading north to Canada to get your higher education? Or maybe you just want to head west to and tour the nation. It's only for a semester, but here's your chance.

"It is an experience I would wholeheartedly recommend to everyone at UK," said Kayla Albert, a corporate communications senior who attended Ramapo College, a liberal arts college in New Jersey, last fall through the program.

Plus, studying abroad looks great on a résumé not just because it is something to list, but also because it's something out of the ordinary, Crume said.

If nothing else, it offers the chance to travel, explore the world and expand one's boundaries. Students don't get opportunities like this every day. Given the state of the economy and tuition costs, the program offers students the opportunity to do something they usually wouldn't be able to afford. If students feel like expanding their horizons and doing something different, they should take advantage of the NSE.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Focus of Obama's election should not be his race

Within the past two centuries, slavery has been abolished, blacks have been given the right to vote and segregation has ended. Now, for the first time in history, a non-Caucasian man has just been elected to our nation's highest office. These events demonstrate the true racial equality for which American citizens are striving. However, it seems to me that many are not viewing this as a statement of fairness, but instead as another point on the scoreboard for blacks. It is not a contest and as long as it is viewed that way, true impartiality will never prevail.

Having voted for Barack Obama myself, I have confidence he will be a capable leader. He deserves to be remembered as a man with great ideas, morals and leadership abilities. Coining him as "the black president" does not do him justice. His victory undoubtedly deserves celebration, but why make his race the focus of our celebration?

One can find many examples of the reverse racism shown since the election on the Internet — more specifically, on media-submission sites such as YouTube. I'm sure everyone has heard about or even seen the videos of the festivities that took place on campus after the results were announced on election night.

A friend of mine, a white male, was walking alone on campus when he was approached by a group of black men who were taking part in the celebration. All hyped up on the victory, they tried to start a fight, shouting phrases such as, "What's up, white boy?" I wasn't until my friend told the young men that he was also an Obama supporter that they allowed him to continue on his way.

Another example of this is the Obama effigy that was recently displayed on campus. Rather than viewing the incident as a political statement, authorities automatically focused on Obama's race and deemed it a hate crime. Do I think authorities should look the other way when it comes to true bias in our society? Absolutely not. But as long as officials, the media and the public put so much emphasis on a person's race, there will always be tension.

I think the solution to this problem starts with our generation. We need to stop making snap judgments and assumptions based on the color of someone's skin. Most importantly, we need to cast aside the pain from the past so we can one day raise our children in a nation that is finally, truly equal.

Kristina Betsworth
journalism sophomore

Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for a cartoonist to draw pieces for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Those who have an interest in campus and local issues will be given special attention, although cartoonists of all interests will be considered.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brad Bowling. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



Branch off to science or humanities to make yourself more marketable

The time of the semester is upon us when students who are not preparing to graduate fiercely pore through the schedule of classes to create a plan for the coming semester. This is a time when we all make decisions about how we will develop our courses of study—some of us will continue with existing majors, some will sift through another round of University Studies Program courses and others will add new majors.



EMILY FOERSTER
Kernel columnist

I want to address this because, having nearly finished with school, I have experienced enough to know what I wish I had done differently. The environment is obviously very important to me and with the "green frenzy" happening around the country right now (a phenomenon not likely to disappear) should be important to you too, if you want to open yourself to more job opportunities down the road.

The environmental crisis we face is so fascinating because in order to fully appreciate and combat its implications, you have to be competent in a variety of fields. The environmental crisis is certainly a science problem. But, because fixing it depends on changes in individual awareness and

consumer behavior, it is also a humanities problem.

Take coal-to-liquid fuel as an example. Sure, it sounds great when you hear people call it "clean coal." It's abundant, it's cheap, it's domestic, we don't have to make many changes to our consumer behavior to use it and it's clean, which means it's good for the environment. But when you actually learn the scientific details of its mining and liquefaction, you understand that it is not clean. If you also understand the sociological issues regarding mining in Appalachia or the advertising psychology behind using names like "clean coal," you are armed with more knowledge and an appreciation for the complexity of the problem. You might, therefore, be better able to produce an intelligent solution to the coal-to-liquid problem.

With such a difficult economy, it is becoming more and more difficult for college graduates to find jobs, let alone jobs that fall within their fields of study. It's also becoming more difficult for parents to support their children while we find ourselves after college. Those of us who have done well in school and who demonstrate competency in a range of areas will have a greater chance of securing a job.

In December, I will graduate with a double major in Spanish and English, which, contrary to what many people think, are both very useful and versatile majors. However, as global warming continues, there is increasing demand

for green industry, both in this country and abroad.

Every day I wish I could start all over again with a third major in sustainable agriculture, or ecology, or biology, or civil engineering and so on, and so forth. I could write a substantial amount about the environmental crisis from a humanities-based perspective, but I lack the scientific understanding of it to make a thoroughly convincing case against it and that is a detriment to me in someday finding a "green" job.

I believe that we all have to do what we love, and I realize that not everyone loves science or the humanities. But many of you, especially those of you in your first or second year, still have plenty of time to add a second major and still finish school in four years. If you are a humanities person and are nervous about doing well in a scientific field, don't be. You're here to learn new things, not to show off knowledge you already have. There are always options to help you, and you might be surprised to see what you are capable of doing.

After the Great Depression, young Americans united for World War II and their efforts revitalized the country. I believe the environment is the cause our generation must fight for because it affects us all, and it would serve us well to prepare ourselves accordingly.

Emily Foerster is an English and Spanish senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Apologies for column about Greeks

In my column last week, I discussed the Greek system here on campus and my opinions of it. Many of you have written the Kernel and even contacted me through Facebook in an attempt to share your opinions on my column. In the week since my column ran, I have had the opportunity to reflect and decide how to best respond to the praise and criticism of my article. I believe what I have written for this week will suffice to clear up ambiguities left in my last article and allow me to clarify some statements I made.



ZACHARY KISER
Contributing columnist

I will agree with many of you when you said that I used broad generalizations when describing members of the Greek system. These generalizations served an important purpose and were not just the result of a baseless and ignorant rant. Through these generalizations I tried to bring to the attention of people that appearance is everything. This ties into a second complaint that readers had about my article, the complaint being that I did not know the inner workings of the Greek system. This is very true. My perception

of the Greek system is based on my limited number of encounters with the system.

Yet, this is the exact view that is held by the other two-thirds of the population on campus that is not Greek. They draw their conclusions on the limited number of encounters they have with Greeks and the Greek system. What that conclusion is depends on what type of Greek they encounter; whether it is the honorable Greek that leads a life of integrity or the Greek who is the complete opposite of that. I had hoped that my readers would see the subtlety within my comments and be able to deduce the satirical nature of my column. Yet, this did not happen on the scale I had hoped for it to and the blame for this lies solely with me.

It is a sad fact of reality, but in this world appearance is everything and the appearance we try to portray isn't always the one that comes across.

ing this into account, every person, entity and organization must be diligent in their effort to constantly grow and reshape themselves to avoid this confusion of appearance and actuality. It is this diligent reshaping and attempt at growth that will prevent stereotypes (like the ones presented in my column last week) from becoming something that is perceived as the truth.

In the final part of my column this week, I would like to apologize to those that were offended by the comments made in my column last week. The harsh generalizations I used were not appropriate, even in the context of the type of column I was attempting to write, and the lesson I was attempting to teach. But the fact still remains that there are people everyday who encounter not only the Greek system, but also people on the individual level and these people sometimes do not take away the gist of who or what we are based on appearances.

We are a society in which first impressions mean everything and there is little room to fix things after the fact. Again, I wholeheartedly apologize to those I have offended and I invite you to join me in the ongoing struggle to make our campus the accepting, home-away-from-home that we all need and want it to be.

Zachary Kiser is a human nutrition sophomore. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

FEATURES

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frame by frame | This week's box office hits and misses

Bond shows human side in next installment

Quantum of Solace
Starring: Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Judi Dench

Acquiring Daniel Craig as the new James Bond over three years ago was considered a risk by many. Some believed Craig would come off as too soft to play the suave yet masculine secret agent. With the future of the franchise as unstable as Anna Nicole Smith, the new Bond shocked us all and seemed to actually embrace the inner sentimentality.

"Quantum" revolves around British secret agent Bond (Craig) who continues to cope with the loss of his love. Meanwhile, he finds himself in a mysterious mission involving the negotiation of oil reserves. As Bond immerses himself in the mission a greater conspiracy emerges and the negotiations may be more drastic and damaging than he and his superior M (Dench) previously assumed.

Despite its skeptics, "Casino Royale" eventually became one of the most successful and acclaimed Bond films ever. With Oscar-winning writer Paul Haggis (Crash) taking over the new regime, the franchise took on a new, vibrant personality. The action is still there. The complex political plot is still there. But Haggis has tossed in a dash of emotion we never saw out of 007 before.

Bond seems to have a fifth gear with Craig doing the bow tie. In "Casino," the normally seductive Bond finds himself one romantic dinner away from proposing to damsel Vesper (Eva Green), and "Quantum" con-

tinues his heartache over her death. Even the title means "sum of peace," referring to his pain.

Whether or not you feel Craig pulls off the tender Bond, there is no neglect of full-on action in this picture. Golden Globe-nominated director Marc Forster ("Monster's Ball") creates a visual detonation of choreographed tumbles and explosions we love about Bond with action so vibrant you leave the theater checking yourself for shards of glass.

"Quantum" runs 106 minutes and is rated PG-13 for violent moments and slight sexual content. If it weren't for "The Dark Knight," this would be the best action film of 2008. Being that it's not, it will have to settle for second and probably the second-highest opening weekend of the year as well.

Grade: A-
Playing At: Cinemark Fayette Mall, Regal Hamburg Pavilion, Cinemark Movies 10 Woodhill, Lexington Movie Tavern

Opening Today **Slumdog Millionaire** (limited)

Starring: Dev Patel, Freida Pinto

The Plot: Jamal Malik (Patel), an insolvent teenage Indian, wins a fortune on a popular game show. He then falls in love with a beautiful girl (Pinto) and tries to get her to love him for who he is and not his wealth.

The Scoop: This film is has become the true Cinderella of cinema. With no big-budget studio behind it,

"Slumdog" was a breath away from not being released at all. Now its pre-release buzz actually has it on the short list for an Oscar. And with the success of "Once," I would almost guarantee this film to be mentioned in March.

Christmas Tale (limited)

Starring: Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Paul Rouseillon, Mathieu Amalric

The Plot: Through the years the Vuillard family has drifted apart and in many ways became strangers to one another. Junon (Deneuve), the mother, is diagnosed with terminal cancer, which brings the family home for the first time in years.

The Scoop: The film is in limited release and is an IFC film, which can hold it back. "Tale" should be a sentimental comedy about family and values, but will likely be seen by few because of its French language and minute backing.

Upcoming DVDs

Wall-E (Nov. 18)

Starring: Ben Burtt, Jeff Garlin, Fred Willard

Disney plus Pixar equals mucho mucho dinero! "Wall-E" grossed over \$222 million at the box office and the upcoming

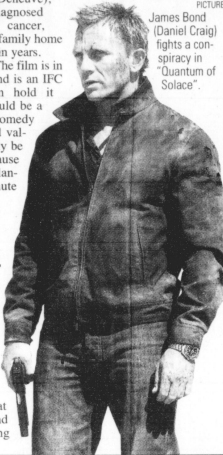
DVD release will only add to the studios wallet.

Tropic Thunder (Nov. 18)

Starring: Ben Stiller, Robert Downey Jr., Jack Black
Granted Robert Downey Jr. is a scene-stealer as the overcommitted actor, but the Ben Stiller-directed comedy just misses the mark. There are few laughs and little to work with when it comes to memorable quotes.

COMPILED BY FEATURES WRITER RICKY SIMPSON

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES



James Bond (Daniel Craig) fights a conspiracy in "Quantum of Solace."

Things change but 007 remains the same

Nine. That is the number of presidents our nation has seen since 1962. A lot has changed since then and not a whole lot has stayed the same. What have the last 46 years not brought us? Since 1962, it's probably safe to say that the world has seen everything imaginable. War, famine, scandal, innovation and triumph ... you name it, it has happened.

You don't have to be a scholar or a historian to realize that the world is a much different place than it was in 1962. However, despite all the tragedy, turmoil and triumph these years have brought us, one thing has remained the same. His name is Bond. James Bond.

I realize how crazy that must sound considering the fact that the character of James Bond has now been played by six different actors, but the fact of the matter is simple: James Bond is much more than a character whose claim to fame is

the highest-grossing film series in the history of movies.

He is a cultural icon who, since his cinematic introduction is 1962's "Dr. No," has served as a hero to the world. Time after time, film after film, he is able to hop-scotch the globe, beat the evil villain, drive exotic cars, save the world and sweep the damsel off her feet. And whether it's been in a tailored tuxedo or covert army gear, he has managed to look pretty suave in doing so.

For 46 years, not only has James Bond been able to captivate millions, perhaps billions, with his exploits and escapades, but he has also doubled over as a worldwide icon of adventure, style and yes, consistency.

You see, James Bond is more than a charming British secret agent who kills every bad guy he can find. Granted, he is indeed a charming British secret agent, and he has managed to kill his fair share of bad guys. But he has stood for something to the entire world. And that something happens to be whatever is distressing the world at the moment. Throughout his cinematic journey he battled crazed communist generals, fundamentalists, global terrorists and even

corrupt bankers. He has managed to squash plots, which included global hunger, nuclear disaster, media manipulation, bloated banks accounts and disease epidemics.

Agent 007 has been there through all of it. Not only do we know it, we also know he will always beat it. Whether it was Soviet generals of yesteryears intent on nuclear war and global domination or global terrorists willing to resort to any form of chaos to get what they want. For 46 years he has beat them all.

Isn't that the great thing about James Bond? Knowing that because Bond beat it on the screen in front of us, we can beat it too. Yes, he gives us thrills and kicks. But he also gives us hope and optimism. He has been giving these things to movie audiences everywhere since 1962. And with the release of Bond's newest installment, "Quantum of Solace," I imagine we will be privileged to more of the same.

Global trends, world leaders and humanity's fears: these things come and go. But James Bond ... he stays the same.

Derek Miles is a geography and German sophomore. E-mail dmiles@kykernel.com.



DEREK MILES
Kernel columnist

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PREMATURE

Continued from page 1

ing. "We also want women to stop smoking. One in five women smoke nationally, and one in three women smoke in Kentucky, even when they are pregnant," Echsner said. Echsner also said there were many other states that got an "F," and no states received an "A." Vermont was the only state to receive the highest grade, a "B."

Roger Clapp, state director of the March of Dimes for

Vermont, believes Vermont received the highest grade because as of 2005, they had a premature rate of 9 percent, which is a full percentage point below any other state in the country.

"The reason for this decline is that there is a real system of prenatal care in Vermont that is more comprehensive than most other states," Clapp said. "It's because of the sharing of information among different health facilities across the state, and also the fact that Vermont has a relatively high rate of access to health care and health insurance relative

to other states."

At a news conference in Frankfort on Wednesday, leading Kentucky lawmakers and legislative representatives gathered to discuss the formation of a new legislative caucus to address maternal and child health issues.

State Rep. Kathy Stein (D-Lexington) believes this is an important issue for the Kentucky legislature to deal with, and that it can be dealt with effectively.

"The failing score of Kentucky is absolutely horrid, but unfortunately we have neglected the need for prenatal care for all young

women, and this is where we must correct our actions," Stein said.

Stein said more education is needed for pregnant women, and the state's cigarette tax needs to be raised.

"We know that one of the primary reasons women in Kentucky are giving birth to premature babies is because they smoke," Stein said. "Babies can not thrive in smoke-filled wombs."

The committee will work closely with other committees in the state legislature, Stein said.

"When we bring people together, I think we can be

more effective in tackling the problems," Stein said. "This is going to be a concentrated effort."

Dr. Henrietta Bada, a professor of pediatrics at UK, defines neonatal care as any medical care given to babies. She defines premature infants as infants born before 37 weeks of gestation.

A premature infant may have differences in physical and neurological characteristics and may also be high-risk from complications relating to prematurity, such as respiratory ailments and learning disabilities and delays, she said.

The most important advice Bada said she could give to expectant mothers is to go for prenatal care because a lot of the problems and issues associated with pregnancy can be addressed at an early stage and a mother can figure out, with a doctor's help, how to maintain a healthy pregnancy.

"Smoking and drugs during pregnancy is associated with the births of premature infants," Bada said. "Women should maintain healthy habits from childhood until the time they reach childbearing age, to ensure delivery of a healthy baby."

FIRECRACKER

Continued from page 1

"The idea is to frighten the birds to more rural landscapes," Nathe said. "This is the most humane and discreet way we can think of to deal with the problem."

The sirens are safe to use and were developed by a company that specializes in harmless wildlife removal, Hart said. The Physical Plant Division notifies UK Police before and after shooting to be as safe as possible.

Hart said that he had received only one complaint about someone feeling threatened.

UK decided to use the Screamer Sirens partly because cowbird droppings can end up all over cars, which eats away at the paint," Nathe said.

"But more important is the health threat that comes with the droppings," he said. "If left on the ground, the droppings can possibly result in histoplasmosis, which can lead to fever and other complications."

Histoplasmosis is a disease caused by a fungus found in

the droppings of birds and bats. This illness is common in the Ohio River Valley, which includes much of Kentucky, and near the Mississippi River, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

The number of cowbirds seems to be greater this year, Hart said. He said the removal of trees in Lexington and shortages of food have brought the birds to campus in greater numbers.

Wednesday evening was the seventh night this fall that the team has gathered to scare off the migratory birds.

TRAVEL

Continued from page 1

50 miles or more from home this Thanksgiving, Lakford said.

However the largest decrease is expected in air travel, with only a slight decrease in road travel,

Lakford said. Air travel, the most expensive, is expected to decline the most because people are looking for better bargains, Lakford said.

This is the first decline in Thanksgiving travel since 2002, Lakford said, and the fourth holiday this year to have travel go down, but AAA is anticipating an increase in travel for

other modes of transportation, such as buses and trains.

Ashley Grigsby, a UK student from Texas, said going home for five days is simply not worth the cost.

"It's a little too far for the amount of time for break," Grigsby said. "It's just not worth the cost to go home."

GOOGLE

Continued from page 1

said. "One possible application is scene cutting," Trusczynski said. "Say the picture that you took has a building in it, and you want that building gone. With the technology we're talking about, it will be possible to remove the build-

ing and replace it with what whatever is behind the building."

Friday's lecture is part of a lecture series hosted by UK's College of Computer Science. This year the college will host a series of four lectures given by distinguished professors from across the country. The remaining two lectures will take place Jan. 15 and March 13.

Bryant, professor and


dean of Carnegie Mellon University School of Computer Science, has been recognized for his contributions to computer science by winning multiple awards, including his most recent award: the 2007 IEEE Emmanuel Piore Award. Recently, Bryant has focused his research on discovering ways that large-scale computer systems can be used to solve data-intensive issues.

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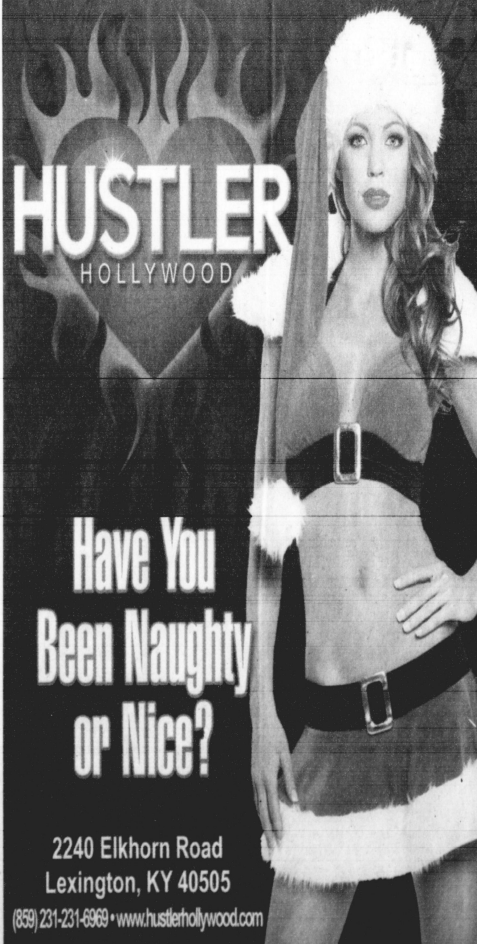
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Feb 21	Tennessee
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