

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

## Phelps first candidate to announce run for SG presidency

By Blair Thomas  
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Red, white and blue balloons, streamers and The Who's "Baba O'Riley" helped introduce the first candidates to announce their run for next year's Student Government presidency and vice-presidency.

Nick Phelps and Brittany Langdon said they want to bring SG back to the students.

"For too long has our focus been on our own interrelations," said presi-

dential candidate Phelps.

At last night's announcement, Phelps and Langdon promised a packed Student Center Small Ballroom that if elected they will reconsider the distribution of SG funds.

"We plan to take a serious look at the services that Student Government provides, evaluate their usage and reallocate funding to those services that the students use most," Phelps said. "Student Government should significantly aid the students and it's not doing that."

Among their proposed changes, they plan to offer a self-defense class for women during UK's Welcome Week in the fall.

"I don't want to just talk about problems with women's safety, I want to act on those problems," Phelps said. Phelps and Langdon also plan to expand the free legal service funded by SG.

They want to hire an attorney that would not just provide legal advice to students free of charge, but also follow through with in-court representation.

"This is one of the most significant changes and one of the most important ones," said current at-large Sen. and at-large senatorial candidate Tyler Montell, who is running for re-election. "This is something that a large group of our student body really needs."

Along with Montell, 16 other candidates announced their senatorial bids on the Phelps-Langdon ticket last night.

Phelps has served on SG for three years, first as a senator and then Senate

president. Currently, he is the Executive Cabinet Secretary.

"It's a challenge to me when I hear people down-talk this organization," Phelps said. "I know what it is capable of. I know the potential that this group of senatorial candidates has."

Langdon has served as an at-large senator for two years.

"I was looking for a way to get more involved and make a tangible difference," Langdon said. "When

See SG on page 3

## A DIVINE PERFORMANCE



ALLIE GARZA | STAFF

Musicians played traditional Sufi music last night at the Whirling Dervishes of Rumi performance in the Singletary Center for the Arts. The performance focused on the reed flute, a Turkish instrument. After the music, the Dervishes took the stage for their whirling performance, which is meant to bring the dancers closer to God and help them become more perfect humans.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE ON THE WHIRLING DERVISHES

## Century-old campus tree to be removed this week

Emily Coovret  
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After helping to make UK a little more beautiful for over a century, one of the biggest and oldest trees on campus will be taken down some time this week and replaced with four younger ones.

The tree, a large pin oak located near the canon in front of the Main Building, has been around since the early 1900s, according to UK spokeswoman Gail Hairston. Due to the decline in health of the tree's buttress roots, the roots that flare out as they go into the ground, it was determined that the tree posed a potential threat to campus safety.

"The tree has been generally stressed out over the past few years," Hairston said. "Now it's just dangerous."

The tree has ganoderma lu-

cidium, a fungus that "decays root systems and weakens the tree so that it poses a high risk of toppling over during storms," said John Hartman, a UK plant pathologist.

The fungus preys on trees that are already injured. One common form of injury is caused by lawn mowers, Hartman said.

The pin oak had also sustained considerable damage during the 2003 ice storm and by a lightning strike sometime in the spring or early summer of 2004.

Hartman inspected the tree in May 2002, when he diagnosed the tree with the fungus.

At that time, the tree appeared to be "in good condition for its size and age, and the main trunk appeared sound," Hartman said.

The tree did not appear to have bacterial leaf scorch, a disease that has been wiping out pin oaks all

over Lexington, Hartman said. The tree did, however, have fungus fruiting on the roots on the west side and in the root plate.

"Most fungus is inside the tree, fruiting structures only produce spores to go to other trees," Hartman said.

Hartman said that he used a resistograph, a device that measures the amount of tree decay, to examine the interior of the trunk. The resistograph revealed that 15 percent of the buttress roots were decayed. Of that 15 percent, the buttress roots were decayed beneath two inches of healthy tissue.

Professional arborists agree that trees are unsafe at 25 to 40 percent buttress root decay, Hartman said.

Administration Drive will not be closed, and only sporadic delays to traffic flow will be necessary as

the tree's larger limbs are lowered to the ground, according to a UK news release.

"They won't do the whole lumberjack thing," Hairston said. "It will come down more peaceful than that."

Four younger oaks, currently growing where the new UK Chandler Hospital will be constructed, will be preserved and re-planted to replace the old oak.

Hairston said the trees will be far enough apart that they will have plenty of room to grow.

"I'm sad it's coming down because the trees make campus more peaceful and take away from the severity of the buildings," said Kathryn Schweri, an agricultural biotechnology senior. "But if the tree is sick, I'm glad they're taking it down."

## Fletcher friends Facebook for campaign

By Katie Saltz  
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Gov. Ernie Fletcher enjoys preaching, flying and listening to classic rock music. His favorite movie is "Top Gun."

Or at least, that's what his Facebook.com profile says.

Many students may have seen Fletcher's profile on Facebook, but they may not realize the profile actually does belong to the state's governor, said Marty Ryall, Fletcher's campaign manager.

It's all part of a new trend in political campaigning.

Using Facebook profiles and groups as a campaign tool is gaining popularity as politicians realize its potential to reach young voters, said Al Cross, former political reporter for the



Fletcher

The Courier-Journal in Louisville and director of UK's Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Studies.

"Politicians know there is an untapped resource of votes in people under 25," Cross said. "It makes sense to use Facebook to reach them."

Facebook might not produce many votes, Cross explained, but is still a useful resource for politicians.

"It is useful in organizing events and fundraisers," Cross said. "It builds a network of supporters and helps to recruit volunteers for the campaign."

Fletcher uses Facebook as a venue to get young people more involved, Ryall said.

"We are always looking for new ways to get young people engaged and established in the voting process," Ryall said. "The 18 to 24 age group is the most difficult to reach, so we are trying something new in this campaign."

Noah Meeks, a chemical engineering graduate student, created the Facebook group "Re-elect Ernie Fletcher '07." Though Meeks volunteered with Fletcher's 2003 campaign, the group is not officially part of Fletcher's campaign.

"The Facebook group was something that I decided to do on my own," Meeks said. "It helps those students who are interested in politics to stay updated about the campaign."

Meeks said that he posts articles or any news he hears about Fletcher's campaign to help students stay informed.

"Using Facebook is a way for politicians to reach out to students and to stay in touch with them," Meeks said. "People in college may not go to the candidates' official Web sites, but they will probably check their Facebook at least once a day."

Les Fugate, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Kentucky, said that Facebook campaigning all began with Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson.

"The creators of Facebook went to Harvard, and Trey is a Harvard alum," Fugate said. "Trey was the first politician to use Facebook because he knew about it in the early stages."

The first Facebook presence Grayson's administration organized was the "Vote 11-07-06" group, which was an effort to remind out-of-state college students to vote with an absentee ballot during November's election.

"It is such a free and easy way to contact students and involve them," Fugate said. "Most college students check their Facebook more than they check their e-mail."

One thing that makes Grayson stand out from the other politicians is that he actually uses his profile, Fugate said.

"Trey's Facebook is actually his," Fugate said. "He created it, and he doesn't have anyone who checks it for him. This lets people see him as a person and not just a politician."

Communications freshman Walker Mattox is

See Fletcher on page 3

## Student's celebrate Darwin's birth, theory

By Kenny Coston  
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For biology professor James Krupa, people reject evolution for one reason — it involves humans.

"(Evolution) wouldn't have been a problem if Darwin had left humans out," he said. "It's human evolution that everyone has a problem with."

Forty students celebrated the 198th birthday of scientist Charles Darwin by attending a presentation by Krupa at a Society for Humanistic, Intellectual and Free Thought (SHIFT) meeting at the Center Theater in the Student Center last night.

Krupa said evolution is starting to branch outside of biology with chemistry and economics incorporating the ideas of evolution in their respective disciplines.

"Darwin borrowed from economics, and now modern economics is starting to use principles of evolution," Krupa said.

Krupa said that Darwin's "Origin of Species" changed literature and that at least one famous book was directly about evolution.

"The Time Machine" by H.G. Wells was directly about evolution and Darwin," he said, referring to the two different human races featured in the story.

Krupa then turned to the hot-button issue with evolution — its place alongside religion.

"There should not be problems (with evolution and religion)," Krupa said.

Krupa gave a list of religious denominations that have accepted evolution, including the American Jewish Congress, the Lutheran World Federation, the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

"Seventy-seven percent of Christians belong to denominations that accept evolution," Krupa said.

Ashlyn Bruce, a member of the Baptist Campus Ministries Leadership Council, said the statistic is easily explained.

"I can't speak for all Christians, but I think it's common to believe in microevolution but not macroevolution," Bruce said.

But others, like Josh Scott, a sophomore BCM member, don't believe in evolution at all.

Krupa, who refused to disclose his religious affiliation, said that most people automatically view evolution as a belief of atheists.

"It's often creationism equals God, and evolution equals atheism," Krupa said.

When asked about court cases involving alternative teaching approaches to evolution, Krupa had a blunt reply.

"With a 14-0 record in favor of only teaching evolution, something should be shown," Krupa said.

Scott thought the fight over what to teach in schools came down to the debate about the separation of church and state.

"Evolution is just as much a religion as anything else, and this debate is about keeping reli-

See Darwin on page 3

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## THE DISH

## SUPER BOWL YOU DIDN'T SEE ON TV

The behind-the-scenes play-by-play? Justin and Scarlett hook up (again!), Nick Lachey runs into Joe Simpson and Tom Cruise makes out in front of his mom

### Justin & Scarlett Heat Things Up

Justin Timberlake touched down in Miami just past midnight on February 4 - and was soon joined by Scarlett Johansson, his "What Goes Around ... Comes Around" video costar and his first post-Cameron fling. First stop: a party at Kid Rock's penthouse at the Shore Club, where they flirted until 4:30 a.m., says an onlooker. Later that day, the two were ensconced in the Budweiser Suite inside Dolphin Stadium for the big game. "They were affectionate and laughing," a source tells Us. From there, the pair moved on to the Hennessy Game Over bash at Mokai - and by 1 a.m., Timberlake had situated himself in Johansson's corner booth. They left at 3:15 a.m. and headed to the Delano Hotel, where they spent several hours in her room.

Will it last? "Scarlett came to Miami to hang out with Justin, and they do like each other," says a source, who adds, "They are not serious yet." (Good thing for Jessica Biel, who wasn't spotted in Miami.) And, as ex-bandmate JC Chasez tells Us, "Some days, Justin's love life is great, some days it's not. But at the end of the day, the only person who knows is him."

### K-Fed & Justin: Brit's Exes Bond

By all accounts, Kevin Federline's stay in Miami was a success. He took in a few parties, drank some Jack Daniel's

and, oh yes, chatted with Justin Timberlake for 20 minutes in the Budweiser suite during the game. "They were laughing about Britney and how messed up she is," says an onlooker. "They seemed like they were having a good time and liked each other." The two have actually known each other for years: Federline, 28, was a backup dancer in Timberlake's video for 2002's "Like I Love You."

### Marc & J. Lo Put On a Show

The weather was warm, but Marc Anthony, 38, and Jennifer Lopez, 37, were hot. At the Ocean Drive/Market America concert in Miami Beach on February 3, Anthony thrilled the crowd with a five-song set, mostly in Spanish. Then, just before midnight, Lopez - who was earlier overheard saying, "I am so in love with Marc, it gets better every day" - appeared on-stage. "They did a lust-ridden duet, all the while looking at each other," says a fan. "Then they hugged and kissed." During her second song, "No Me Ames" ("Don't Love Me"), Lopez did a bump-and-grind with Anthony, followed by fireworks - literally.

### More Miami VIPs

These celebrities were also spotted making the rounds. Although NFL star Tom Brady, 29, mingled with Stacy Keibler and Serena Williams at Mokai on February 2, he had

Gisele Bündchen, 26, on the brain: Early on February 3, he jetted to NYC and had a romantic dinner with her that night.

The Late Late Show host Craig Ferguson, 44, fumed when he was denied immediate access to the Playboy party on February 3. "No one knew him," says an onlooker. The Scottish comic was eventually let in, and joked on his February 4 show, "I was the only celebrity I hadn't heard of."

Just days after separating from his wife of 11 years, Johnny Knoxville, 35, was spotted talking with Alyssa Milano, 34, at the Playboy party. Says a source, "He looked like a kid in a candy store."

### Tom & Katie Go to PDA Extremes

OK, we get it: You're in love! Cruise, 44, and Holmes, 28, couldn't keep their hands off each other during pal Anthony's concert - even in the presence of Cruise's son, Connor, 12, and mom, Mary Lee Mapother South. Afterward, the group hit the CAA sports party at Mokai, where the dancing continued. "They were making out in front of everyone," says an onlooker. When the DJ played "Danger Zone" from Cruise's Top Gun, "Tom went crazy," says a source. By 2 a.m., "Katie was tired; he wanted to stay," the insider adds. "Tom relented."

— Mara Reinstein

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## LIVE PATIO MUSIC THE WORLD FAMOUS TWO KEYS UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

### Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black  
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries (March 21 - April 19)** Today is an 8 — Tales of glory and adventure are your inspiration. Get a good crew on board and you'll exceed your own expectations.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)** Today is a 7 — A startling discovery seems to change everything, but it doesn't. Maintain your course and you'll achieve your original objective.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 21)** Today is an 8 — Somebody else finds the passage way first. Hopefully, you're on good terms. A concept you thought was ridiculous actually has merit. Abandon pride and forge ahead.

**Cancer (June 22 - July 22)** Today is a 7 — You're finding things you thought you'd lost forever. You're building things you never had before. Hide all of it away in safe places, clearly marked, so you can find them again.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)** Today is an 8 — The more you focus attention on others, the better you're going to feel. This is going to be easy, too, and a lot of fun.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)** Today is a 5 — The tension will dissipate as everyone finds their new position. You'll see, this recent development will work out to your advantage.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)** Today is a 7 — The truth is revealed, and that could cause a disruption to your routine. You weren't really doing anything wrong, you were just going down the wrong path.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)** Today is a 7 — You're still doing well, financially, but you'll be better off if you don't talk about mon-

ey very much. Don't provoke jealousies.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** Today is an 8 — Your persistence is beginning to show results. Your profits are coming in. Resist the temptation to splurge; this may have to last a while.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)** Today is a 7 — The trick is to look at previously expendable items a different way. Instead of being risky, see them as potentially valuable.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)** Today is a 6 — You'll soon be past the idea phase and into the heavy lifting. In other words, the fun part's over. It is time to get back to work.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)** Today is a 6 — The assignment you've taken on is certainly not easy. Although you're not making much money, you're definitely paying dues.

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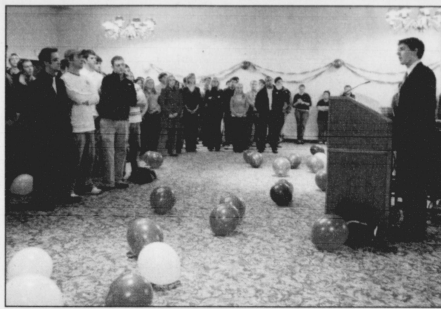
# SG

Continued from page 1

Nick approached me (as a running mate), I knew this would be a great opportunity for both of us."

Both Phelps and Langdon think they have the experience and capability needed to make important changes within SG.

"I have seen this organization from the outside with my involvement in other groups on campus," Phelps said. "Brittany and I both are very involved within Student Government and in other organizations, Greek and non-Greek. We have great potential to represent and work for the students."



Student Government Cabinet Secretary Nick Phelps announced his campaign for SG president last night in the Student Center Small Ballroom. Joining Phelps as the vice-presidential candidate is at-large Sen. Brittany Langdon.

ED MATTHEWS STAFF

# FLETCHER

Continued from page 1

another UK student involved in Facebook politics. Mattox said he supports gubernatorial candidate Jonathan Miller by creating Facebook groups backing him.

"I think it is very effective to campaign through Facebook," Mattox said. "It is the

biggest medium to reach college students. I invite my friends to join candidates' groups and get involved."

Cross said that he thinks Facebook will continue to be used by politicians in the future.

"These politicians are thinking outside of the box," Cross said. "These tactics are likely to be successful in the long run."

"That stuff doesn't surprise me because most people don't

# DARWIN

Continued from page 1

realize (their church's stance)," Bennett said.

If someone ever tried to debate evolution with Bennett, he said he wouldn't waste his time arguing.

"I would ask if they debate the shape of the earth or if atoms exist," Bennett said.

Bruce said that in debates, both sides are too judgmental but that the topic can be debated intelligently.

"In the end, you have to ask where did that one thing begin?" Bruce said.

# Film explores untraditional family structures

By Kristin Stock news@kykernel.com

Family is what you make it out to be. This is the message that Kate Black, curator of UK's Appalachian Collection, hopes the film "Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House" will convey to students tonight at 7 in the Gaines Center's Bingham-Davis House.

The screening is a part of the Gender and Women's Studies Spring 2007 film series directed by Black and by the Gender and Women's Studies Program.

Black picks a different theme each year and this year is family. Tonight's film fits into this genre because it is an untraditional family story about two lesbians leaving their husbands and starting a new life together in 1974.

"Family is wonderful no matter what the grouping is," Black said. "I pick films that challenge the conventional notions of family."

Some students think this film will strengthen their views of family.

"Family is a place where you can find love and nurturing everyday of the week," said Melissa Jones, a biology freshman. "It doesn't matter if you have a mom and a dad; it's still family."

Other students feel that the film screening will raise controversy because of the unconventional notions of family it presents.

"Same-sex relationships are wrong and against my beliefs," said Josh Ferguson, an undeclared freshman. "This will make people mad."

Black hopes that students leave the film with a wider understanding of what makes a family.

"Family can be made of different

groupings of people," Black said. Black said she would like to teach students about all types of families throughout the semester with the film series. She wants students to experience more untraditional families and controversial subjects.

Black said nothing was wrong with people thinking same-sex parents do not constitute a family, but she thinks considering them as a family unit shouldn't be dismissed.

"It's OK that people disagree," she said. "But it is a fact that those families exist."

"Family is a notion of man and woman, but that is not realistic anymore. There are all kinds of families."

Black said that as long as there is love, there is a family, and the upcoming film displays that.

MELISSA JONES biology freshman

# UK doctor to speak on cosmetic surgery trends

By Erica Mitchell news@kykernel.com

Minor cosmetic surgery procedures with less recovery time are becoming more popular around the country and at UK.

Speedy recovery is more common, and a greater number of college students are showing interest in cosmetic surgery, said UK Health Care Physician, Dr. Richard A. Pollock.

Pollock, a board-certified plastic surgeon, will be holding a discussion tonight about facial rejuvenation and abbreviated surgery at 6:30 in the Lexington Public Library Beaumont Branch on Fieldstone Way.

He will discuss the use of lasers to treat cosmetic problems such as pore size, acne scars, wrinkles, excess hair, the digital measurement of skin types and digital imaging of facial features.

"People are interested in a quick fix,"

Pollock said. "They want an abbreviated surgical procedure."

"Quick fixes" in cosmetics are present in eyelid surgery and breast surgery. The operations can take two hours to complete and require two to three days of recovery time.

Many young women are interested in conservative breast enlargements as a matter of self-esteem and self-enhancement, Pollock says.

Less drastic steps to facial and other cosmetic rejuvenation are now available with the help of new technology, Pollock says.

Two lasers used for skin rejuvenation include the Nd:YAG Gemini and the Venus-i. The Gemini is used for eliminating a variety of problems including rosacea, spider veins, sunspots, broken capillaries and pigmentation variations. Younger patients with mild wrinkles or

moderate sun damage are treated with the Venus-i.

UK Plastic Surgery also offers the VISIA complexion analysis system. VISIA provides an in-depth analysis of an individual's facial characteristics and then designs rejuvenation and skin care programs for their specific complexion.

"The down time for these procedures is quite abbreviated, which makes these procedures a viable consideration for students," Pollock said.

Pollock stressed three things a patient should not do before coming in for a procedure: no use of the acne treatment Retin-A, no tanning and no travel, two weeks before.

Pollock will be available to answer questions after the discussion. The event is free and refreshments will be served. Attendees can register for the event by calling (800) 233-8874.

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Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•UK Students for Life Meeting, 8:00 PM, 115 Student Center</li> <li>•Cheap Seat Tuesdays "The Departed", 8:00 PM, Worsham Theater (Student Center)</li> <li>•YMCA Center For Achievement Tutoring, 5:00 PM, YMCA Center For Achievement</li> <li>•PPTSA Meeting, 7:30PM, Gallery Room WTY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•University Christian Fellowship, 8:00 PM, 230 Student Center</li> <li>•Comedy Caravan with Will Hardesty, 8:00 PM, Student Center Cats Den</li> <li>•Bryan Station Middle Tutoring, 4:00 PM, Bryan Station Middle School</li> <li>•L.E.C.M. Food for Body and Soul, 5:05 PM, St. A's (472 Rose Street)</li> <li>•Horse Racing Club Meeting, 6:30 PM, W.P. Garrigus B-52</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Guitar Trio: Ben Lacy, Andrew Leonard, Jerry Belsak, 8:00 PM, Memorial Hall</li> <li>•Engineering Resumania, 10:00 AM, RGAN Commons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•UK Ultimate Frisbee Organization, 10:00 PM, Intramural Fields</li> </ul>

**GO CATS!**

## Dervishes bring message of love and acceptance

By Ellie Fairbanks  
efairbanks@kykernel.com

While most of the news from the Middle East recently has focused on war, violence and unrest, the Whirling Dervishes of Rumi came to UK last night with a message of peace, love and tolerance.

"Today, this message is more important than ever," said Mehmet Saracoglu, the president of UK's Interfaith Dialogue Organization, which organized the performance.

The Dervishes are followers of Rumi, a 13th century mystical poet. Rumi preached about understanding and the acceptance of all cultures, Saracoglu said.

Rumi was a messenger of God, much like Moses and Jesus, said Umüt Goker, a representative from the Istanbul Center for Culture and Dialogue in Atlanta. Rumi was a perfect and true human being, he said.

"Rumi became one of the greatest teachers of universal love and peace," Goker said. "He merged everything he did into one unified existence."

The dance performed, the Sema Ritual, is a spiritual journey for the performers. The spinning motion of the performance has roots in science, Goker said. The whirling action creates a journey of reflection, knowledge and love, ending in a higher level of perfection, he said.

"The Dervishes are revolving in harmo-

ny with each other," Goker said. "The fundamental condition of our existence is to revolve. Everything in nature revolves — electrons, protons, neutrons. The Dervishes share in the revolution of other beings."

Before the performance, traditional Sufi music was played. Sufism is a mystic tradition with ties to Islam.

"Sufism is a path followed by an individual to free oneself from vices," Goker said. "Followers come to know knowledge and love and live in spiritual delight."

Joseph Tiu, a resident of Berea, traveled to Lexington with his fiancé for the music and performance. He said that Sufi music offers something a bit different from Western music.

"Traditional music from the East is a little off sometimes," Tiu said. "It's very natural and organic, and there's an element of chaos."

While the Dervishes are Muslim, Goker said that the performance is meant to bring together all cultures.

"There is unrest and conflict everywhere," Goker said. "There is a clash of civilization. Now is the time to come together to understand each other and find common ground and references."

"Religious differences can pulverize people. If we build good relations we can better all major faiths."



ALLIE GARZA | STAFF

Before the Sema Ritual, the Dervishes are dressed in black cloaks. Just before the spinning begins, they take off the overcoats to reveal white clothing, symbolizing the Dervishes becoming closer to God. During the Ritual, the men reach God, acquire his love and get closer to becoming a perfect human, according to Umüt Goker of the Istanbul Center for Culture and Dialogue in Atlanta. The Whirling Dervishes of Rumi performed on campus last night at the Singletary Center for the Arts.

## Valentine's 'date night' offers comedy, wholesome message

By Ellie Fairbanks  
efairbanks@kykernel.com

Valentine's Day sometimes gets a bad reputation — the mandatory cards, gifts and jewelry all beg down what should be a day spent with loved ones. The Cat's Den's Comedy Caravan series is trying to remedy these misconceptions.

Tomorrow night, the Cat's Den, located on the first floor of the Student Center, will host a special Valentine's Day Comedy Caravan. Karl Underhill, an integrated strategic communications senior, has been working on various events for the Cat's Den this semester as part of an internship. She thinks this week's event should be es-

pecially appealing to students.

"We always have free popcorn at Comedy Caravan, but this week we're having punch, strawberries and a chocolate fountain," Underhill said. "It's going to be a lot of fun. We're trying to make it a date-night for students."

Along with the date-like amenities, Quevaughn Bryant, a professional comedian, will perform. Bryant, who has been a comedian for 16 years, has performed in 35 states at theaters and college campuses, according to his Web site.

"Quevaughn has definitely been around," Underhill said. "He might not be the most well-known comedian, but he's been on specials on HBO and

other TV shows."

Bryant's act usually focuses on his good-guy persona, Underhill said.

"A lot of Quevaughn's performances have messages in them," Underhill said. "He wants teenagers to not drink or smoke. He tries to promote a positive attitude."

Bryant thinks that his routine is atypical from other comedians. He tries to present a social message while still being funny and entertaining.

"This show challenges us to both question the status quo and to reaffirm

our own beliefs," Bryant said on his Web site. "The purpose of this show is not to promote

nor denigrate any specific political or social viewpoint but to inform the audience of our societies' issues."

Aside from the Comedy Caravan, the Cat's Den hosts many other events throughout the semester. Mondays usually have a ping-pong tournament,

Tuesday nights are for Bingo or Team Trivia and Thursdays have Poetry Slams, Underhill said.

"At the Poetry Slam, students can get up and read poetry and listen to other people's," Underhill said. "People bring their own work and it's kind of like a coffeehouse poetry reading."

Cat's Den events are not limited to students who live on campus, but they are definitely geared toward on-campus students, Underhill said.

"For anyone, it's such a great way to meet people and interact," Underhill said. "It's definitely more fun than studying or doing homework."

### If you go

**What:** Comedy Caravan with Quevaughn Bryant  
**When:** Tomorrow, 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Cats Den in the Student Center  
**Price:** Free for students

## Journalists testify Libby never mentioned CIA officer

By Carol D. Leonnig and Amy Goldstein  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Six journalists testified Monday that Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, never mentioned an undercover CIA officer to them — and some said they learned about her identity from other administration sources.

As Libby's attorneys opened their defense in his perjury trial, they argued for a second time that Libby need not take the stand for them to present elements of a defense that his misstatements to investigators were the product of a faulty memory. An irritated U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton said he felt misled and believed Libby would testify.

Testifying as the first defense witness, Washington Post reporter Walter Pincus revealed that then-White House press secretary Ari Fleischer was the first person to tell him, on July 12, 2003, that war critic Joseph Wilson was married to undercover CIA officer Valerie Plame. His remarks contradicted Fleischer's testimony as a prosecution witness last month.

Pincus was the first of six reporters to say that they spoke to Libby, or were called by him, during a crucial period in June 2003 and early July 2003, but did not learn Plame's identity from him.

It is during this time that the prosecution claims Libby was engaged in a fervent effort to discredit Wilson, who had publicly accused the White House of twisting intelligence he had gathered as the administration justified the invasion of Iraq. Prosecutors contend Plame's identity and CIA post were leaked to leave the impression that Wilson was chosen for a CIA-sponsored mission to Niger because of nepotism. Plame's name was revealed in a syndicated column by Robert Novak on July 14, 2003.

Libby, 56, is not charged

with the leak itself but with lying to investigators about conversations he had with reporters about Plame in the summer of 2003. The defense contends that Libby, who has pleaded not guilty, inaccurately remembered conversations with journalists, because they were insignificant amid his pressing work on national security matters.

The journalists' testimony was designed to help Libby's defense by showing that the defendant did not mention Plame to every reporter with whom he spoke around the time of the leak, and that other officials were discussing Plame at about the same time.

Bob Woodward, a best-selling author and an assistant managing editor of The Washington Post, told jurors he had learned about Plame during a mid-June 2003 interview with then-Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage for a book Woodward was researching on the Bush administration's decision to go to war in Iraq. He said he interviewed Libby later that month, and his notes indicate Libby said nothing to him about Plame but that Woodward might have mentioned her to Libby.

Novak testified he also learned of Plame's position at the CIA from Armitage, on July 8, 2003, and confirmed the information with senior White House adviser Karl Rove, probably the next day.

In brief testimony that lasted less than 20 minutes each, reporters Glenn Kessler of the Post, David Sanger of the New York Times and Evan Thomas of Newsweek told jurors that they had spoken with Libby or were called by him during the key week before Novak disclosed Plame's identity. But none heard of Plame from Libby.

Pincus, who covers national security and intelligence issues for the Post, told jurors he was in the office, talking to a source one Saturday in July about a story he was preparing about Wilson's mission to Niger.

"The person I was calling

suddenly swerved off and said ... 'Don't you know, in effect, his wife works at the CIA, is an analyst on weapons of mass destruction,'" Pincus testified. He told the court that the source said, "That's why people aren't paying attention" to Wilson's conclusions that reports of Iraq trying to obtain nuclear material in Niger were unfounded — because he had been sent on the mission by his wife.

Pincus's account conflicted with Fleischer's testimony last month. As a prosecution witness, Fleischer said he mentioned Plame only to two reporters — John Dickerson, then of Time magazine, and David Gregory of NBC News — during a July 2003 trip that President Bush took to Africa. Dickerson has said Fleischer never mentioned Plame to him.

A spokesman for Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald declined to comment on the conflicting testimony.

When Pincus gave a deposition to investigators during the federal probe of the CIA leak, he did not identify his source. He told jurors he was naming Fleischer now because the former press secretary gave him permission to do so last week.

Woodward's testimony would make him the first journalist known to have been told about Plame by a Bush administration official. At the time of his interview with Armitage, Woodward said, he had learned through reporting that Wilson was the former ambassador who was sent to Africa by the CIA, and was surprised Wilson's name had not yet surfaced publicly.

In a tape recording of the interview played for the jury, Armitage explains that the CIA took the Niger claim out of a Presidential speech in October 2002, but it somehow found its way into Bush's State of the Union address months later. Woodward is heard asking about Wilson and how he happened to make the Niger trip. Some expletives in the conversation were redacted for the jury.

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## Some guys need room to get away, even in their homes

By Kirstin Downey  
THE WASHINGTON POST

The conventional wisdom in the real estate business is that the woman makes the decisions about which house to buy and how to decorate it. But now men are becoming increasingly eager to claim part of their houses for their own use. They no longer want to be shunted out to a bleak workbench in an unheated garage, or limited to a single worn-out recliner in the rec room. Now architects, builders and interior designers are recognizing that men are looking for their own sphere in the house, a place to do what they most like to do.

"Man caves are coming out of the closet," said real estate author Mark Nash.

Nash last year collected opinions from more than 900 real estate agents about hot trends in the housing market. Among those pinpointed, he said: Men are looking for "personal dedicated space," where they can go and work on projects, entertain their friends, or "chill without being disturbed, and if so, only in an emergency."

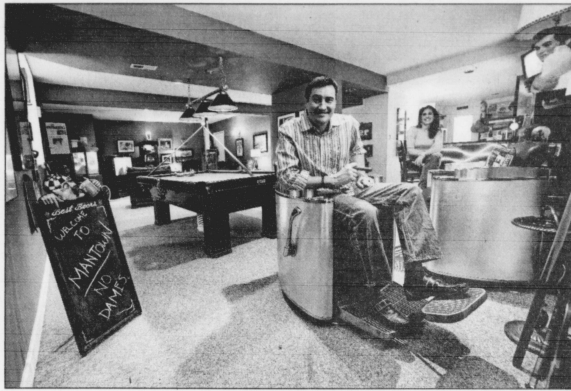
Greg Jones, 42, of Crownsville, Md., has decorated his once-unfinished basement entirely to his own taste. There's a pool table and a blackjack table. Neon signs advertise beer brands. Football memorabilia bedecks the walls. The bathroom has a door with a frosted window that reads "Men's Room."

When Jones watches sports events on one of his two TVs, he sits in an old-fashioned barber's chair. His wife, Dina, 39, a stay-at-home mother, usually joins him there only if they are hosting a party.

Greg, who owns a medical billing company, planned his haven secretly, unbeknownst to Dina. She was drinking coffee in the kitchen one morning and heard hammering. When she got downstairs, she found workers hanging dry-wall and wiring the electrical system.

"My husband kind of did it behind my back," said Dina. Although she was shocked, she realized he was doing it to meet a deep personal longing. "Men do need their sanctuaries," she said, reasoning that she gets to decide about the decor in most of the rest of the house.

Once his male friends saw what Jones had done, they wanted the



Men are becoming increasingly eager to claim part of their houses for their own use. Greg Jones, in a barber chair, has built a special manly room to call his own within the Crownsville, Md., home he shares with his wife, Dina.

same. Among themselves, they call it "building a manowar."

In a new book, "ManSpace," author Sam Martin describes hundreds of male-oriented rooms he found across the country — wine cellars, high-tech garages for vintage car collections, cozy libraries, music-composing or writing studios placed in rustic outbuildings away from the main house. A man in Las Vegas installed his own professional boxing ring; a science-fiction junkie near Philadelphia constructed a replica of the bridge of the Starship Enterprise to house his home theater.

The book contains dozens of photos of such guy-themed rooms, and has sold more than 11,000 copies since its release in October. "It seems to be striking a nerve with a lot of guys," Martin said in an interview. "Guys have been wandering in the wilderness a long time. They have had an identity crisis."

The male-focused room fad has also been noted by housing researcher Deborah Rosenstein, vice president of the Christopher Cos., a Fairfax, Va.-based home builder, who notes that it is predominantly a

feature of single-family houses that are big enough to allow the owners to designate space for their particular use.

"Women have always had hobby rooms, and now there are hobby rooms for men," Rosenstein said. "You're seeing much more leather, with a club feel, or media rooms that are outfitted as man space."

Why are so many men now seeking a room of their own? Some armchair sociologists speculate that it's part of a continuing backlash against women's entry into the public sphere, that as women claim top spots in places that were once all-male preserves, such as universities, golf courses and Congress, men are seeking space in their own homes.

There's something about being around women that is "stigmatizing to men that's not the other way around," said Deborah Tannen, a professor of linguistics at Georgetown University who is an expert on gender and communications. "You drive like a woman." You throw like a girl: there's a lot of cultural symbolism. Women, on the other hand, may find men's presence unwell-

come but not stigmatizing."

Or perhaps this is just another way affluent people can justify a larger house, said real estate agent Mark Gude, of DCRealEstate.com. For most families, living space is at a premium and it is shared.

"If Dad wants his own space, he can go sit out in the pickup," Gude said.

For real estate developer Scott McElhaney, co-owner of Arlington Property Ventures, his special preserve is what he calls his "smoking porch," a partly covered balcony on the second floor of his Arlington, Va., home.

"We sit out there and have cigars and a Scotch," said McElhaney, 32.

His wife, Lisa, 29, his partner in Arlington Property Ventures, accepts his need for a space of his own.

"Scott uses it as a personal retreat," she said. "There aren't many places he can get away from me, places he can sit and stare out, have a Scotch, with our dog Cocoa. She's the only girl allowed. They can go out there, talk their guy talk while I'm in the kitchen making dinner or preparing hors d'oeuvres."

## Bush's advice to dad: turn off TV

By Peter Baker  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — As the House gets ready to begin debating the Iraq war Tuesday, President Bush has a piece of advice for his father: Turn off the television.

It seems that former President George H.W. Bush has been getting agitated lately, watching all the attacks on his son — so much so that the current president said Monday he has become worried for his father's well-being.

"I am actually more concerned about him than I have ever been in my life, because he's paying too much attention to the news," the president told C-SPAN in an interview to be broadcast Tuesday morning. "And I understand how difficult it is for a person who loves somebody to see them out in the political process and to kind of endure the criticism. My answer to him is: 'Look, don't pay attention to it. I'm doing fine.'"

That is advice he apparently intends to follow himself. Bush has no plans to watch the Ho'e debate his decision to send another 21,500 troops to Iraq.

"You know, I've got a full day," he said. "I mean, it's not as if the world stops when the Congress does their duty."

Besides, he added, "I already know what the debate is. I hear a lot of opinions. A lot of people don't believe we can succeed in Iraq and therefore, I presume, want to get out. That would be a disastrous course."

The president's comments were not the first hint at the frustration inside the Bush family over his political troubles. Just after the November elections that ousted Republican majorities from both houses of Congress, the elder Bush publicly bristled at those disparaging his son. At a leadership conference in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, he responded heatedly to Arab critics. "When your son's under attack, it hurts," he said. "You're determined to be at his side and help him any way you possibly can."

The president's travails may have brought father and son closer together in some ways. In the interview Monday, the younger Bush said he considers his father underestimated. Bush has identified himself politically more often with Ronald Reagan or Harry S. Truman than his father. But he offered the 41st president Monday as his first example when asked by C-SPAN's Steve Scully who was the most underrated president.

"Well, George H.W. Bush is one of them," the 43rd president said. "He followed President Reagan, who was such a really strong president that people have yet to take a look at my dad."

## Study: AIDS patients had relief, fewer side effects with marijuana

By Rick Weiss  
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — AIDS patients suffering from debilitating nerve pain got as much or more relief by smoking marijuana as they would typically get from prescription drugs — and with fewer side effects — according to a study conducted under rigorously controlled conditions with government-grown pot.

In a five-day study performed in a specially ventilated hospital ward where patients smoked three marijuana cigarettes a day, more than half the participants tallied significant reductions in pain.

By contrast, less than one-quarter of those who smoked "placebo" pot, which had its primary psychoactive ingredients removed, reported benefits, as measured by subjective pain, and standardized neurological tests.

The White House belittled the study as "a smoke screen," short on proof of efficacy and flawed because it did not consider the health impacts of inhaling smoke.

But other doctors and advocates of marijuana policy reform said the findings, in Tuesday's issue of the journal *Neurology*, offer powerful evidence that the Drug Enforcement Administration's classification of cannabis as having "no currently accepted medical use" is outdated.

"This should be a wake-up call for Congress to hold hearings to investigate the therapeutic use of cannabis and to encourage more research," said Barbara Roberts, a former interim associate deputy director in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, now with Americans for Safe Access, which promotes access to marijuana for therapies and research.

Countless anecdotal reports have suggested that smoking marijuana can help relieve the pain, nausea and muscular spasticity that often accompany cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis and other ailments. But few well-controlled studies have been conducted.

The new study enrolled 50 AIDS patients with severe foot pain caused by their disease or by the medicines they take.

The team first measured baseline pain, both subjectively (patients ranked their pain on a scale of 1 to 10) and with two standardized tests, one involving a small hot iron held to the skin and another involving hot chili pepper cream.

Then, for five days, patients lit up at 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m., using a calibrated puff method that calls for inhaling for five seconds, holding one's breath for 10, then waiting 45 seconds before the next.

The cigarettes were kept frozen and locked in a safe, then thawed and humidified one day before use. Cigarette butts and other debris were collected, weighed and returned to the safe to ensure no diversion for recreational purposes.

Grown on the government's official pot farm in Mississippi, the drug was about one-quarter the

potency of quality street marijuana. The inactive version was chemically cleansed of cannabinoids, the drug's main active ingredients.

"It smelled like and looked like" normal marijuana, said study leader Donald Abrams, a physician at San Francisco General Hospital, where the smoking ward was located. Like the patients, Abrams was not told who had the active pot until the study was over.

Thirteen of 25 patients who smoked the regular marijuana achieved pain reduction of at least 30 percent, compared with six of 25 who smoked placebo pot. The average pain reduction for the real cannabis was 34 percent, compared with 17 percent for the placebo.

Opioids and other pills can reduce nerve pain by 20 to 30 percent but can cause drowsiness and confusion, Abrams said. And many patients complain that a prescription version of pot's main ingredient in pill form does not work for them.

That was true for Diana Dodson, 50, who received an AIDS diagnosis in 1997 after a blood transfusion.

"I have so many layers of pain I can hardly walk," said Dodson, who was in the new study. Prescription drugs made her feel worse. "But inhaled cannabis works," she said.

Patients in the study — all of whom had smoked pot previously — reported no notable side effects, though the researchers acknowledged that people unfamiliar with the drug might not fare as well.

Igor Grant, director of the University of California Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research, which funded the research, said the study was probably the best-designed U.S. test of marijuana's medical potential in decades. He called the results "highly believable."

"I have so many layers of pain I can hardly walk," said Dodson, who was in the new study. Prescription drugs made her feel worse. "But inhaled cannabis works," she said.

"We're very much supportive of any effort to ameliorate the suffering of AIDS patients," Murray said. But even if ingredients in marijuana prove useful, he added, they ought to be synthesized in a pill to make dosing more accurate and to minimize lung damage.

Separately, ending a six-year effort, a Massachusetts group learned Monday that it had won a legal victory against the DEA in its battle for federal permission to grow its own cannabis for federally approved studies, instead of relying on government pot.

In an 87-page opinion, administrative law judge Mary Ellen Bittner ruled it "would be in the public interest" to allow a University of Massachusetts researcher to cultivate marijuana under contract to the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS), which sponsors medical research on marijuana and other drugs.

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# Violence changing college campus

By Molly Hennessy-Fiske and Zeena Kareem  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Zala Ghefori was walking out of her dormitory at Mustansiriya University to buy a loaf of bread when the sniper struck.

He was waiting for her by the brick back gate, opposite the bakery. Ghefori, 31, who is working on her doctorate in Arabic, was preoccupied with an exam she had taken.

In the moment it took her to cross, the sniper fired.

"I felt that there was some sort of heat around me and a sound like that of the wings of birds along the way," Ghefori said. She heard the crack once, twice, many times. She kept walking toward the bakery, not realizing what was happening. One of the workers, an old woman, shouted for her to take cover.

"What brought you out at such a time when snipers were shooting at you?" the woman said. "They just missed you."

Mustansiriya, in a mainly Sunni Arab neighborhood, is home to a student body that is predominantly Shiite Muslim, mostly from Shiite-dominated southern Iraq. It has long been co-ed. But violence is changing that demographic.

Today, with militias and insurgents increasingly threatening young men, Mustansiriya has become a mostly female campus and a battleground where the stakes for getting a degree grow by the day.

Sandwiched between the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City

and the mostly Sunni Adh-Dhahira neighborhood, the university has seen numerous professors and students — mostly men — killed in sectarian violence since it reopened three years ago. Last month brought the deadliest attack yet: a pair of car bombs that killed 70 and wounded more than 170.

Mustansiriya's female students increasingly find themselves caught in the sectarian fighting. University guards allow Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Al Mahdi militia to search the women's dorm for snipers. Militia members have cut the dorm's power lines, held protests on campus and threatened women who don't wear head scarves. Sunni insurgents drop pamphlets on campus demanding that students move out. And Iraqi soldiers set up checkpoints at the university gates.

The bombings, shootings and kidnappings initially targeted men, forcing professors to disguise themselves and male students to drop out, which thinned the ranks of men on campus.

A round-faced woman with a ready smile, Ghefori is stubborn and unshakable. Living in a women's dorm, surrounded by about 175 other female students, Ghefori felt safe.

Ghefori, who needs at least two more years to complete her studies, didn't tell her family about the sniper attack. She would transfer to a university in the north, she said, but there's no space. Too many other students have transferred. And so she is stuck at Mus-

tansiriya, studying ancient Arabic poetry in her dorm, darning out once or twice a week.

"Terror is living with us," Ghefori said. "There is not a day when there is no terror."

Mustansiriya officials say attacks have increased in recent months. Classroom windows are pocked with bullet holes. When shooting intensifies near Ghefori's dorm, the building supervisor often turns off the lights and moves students to the first floor, where they are in a better position to flee if necessary. More students than ever are postponing their studies because of the unrest, according to the university's assistant dean for student affairs, who asked that his name not be used for fear he would be targeted.

Female students are not targets, the assistant dean said. They just are increasingly caught in the crossfire as Sunni insurgents from the surrounding neighborhood fire on the nearby Health Ministry, dominated by Shiite extremists.

"When shooting starts, women start screaming and the strong ones try to protect those who are freaked out," said Fatima Selami, 29, who came to Mustansiriya to earn a doctorate in mathematics.

Selami wears a head scarf and loose, conservative clothing. But she's still afraid that she'll be targeted.

She said the recent bombing left her feeling hopeless. Her first thesis adviser, Mohammed Ramadhan, was killed last year by insurgents who followed him home.

Her new adviser has been

threatened by militias, so he scaled back his class schedule and stopped announcing class times. To advise Selami, the professor arranged a series of off-campus meetings.

"He drives his car to a certain street. After, he calls me and tells me where to find him. When the car stops, he hands me the corrected draft and I hand him a new draft before he drives off," she said. "This is how I finished writing the dissertation."

Selami expects to graduate soon and leave Iraq to join her husband, a fellow math student, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Last month, as she walked from the dorm to the classroom where she would successfully defend her thesis, Selami was sure she would be attacked.

"I thought that I was dreaming and that a car bomb or an IED would wake me up and bring me down to earth," she said during a break, giving a waver smile.

Moments later, the dorm supervisor arrived to inform Selami and a crowd of friends in the audience that fighting had broken out between U.S. troops in helicopters and insurgent snipers in the surrounding neighborhood. Shops had closed, she said, and people were hiding in the dorm again.

Dorm residents in the crowd grew pale. Selami was angry.

"Where do we go to hide out tonight?" she said. "It will shower bullets."



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## With campaign, Obama needs more than potential

By Dan Balz  
THE WASHINGTON POST

DURHAM, N.H. — The opening days of Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign have displayed all the promise of his candidacy, with large crowds, pulsating energy and a charismatic leading man. But the Illinois Democrat faces several serious challenges if he hopes to convert potential into a winning campaign.

The most significant hurdle will be overcoming questions about whether the first-term senator, who only three years ago was a member of the Illinois Senate, has the experience and readiness to serve as president at a time of war abroad and major unmet problems at home.

Next will be striking the balance between demands of political elites for Obama to flesh out the details of his ambitious policy agenda without disappointing the many thousands of Americans who have been drawn to him for his appeal as a fresh contrast to traditional politicians. Ultimately, the race could hinge on his ability to overcome the power and resources of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's battle-tested operation. It is already flexing its muscles on behalf of the New York Democrat and is looking to profit from any missteps by Obama's smaller and less experienced organization.

Day Three of the Obama campaign brought the candidate to New Hampshire,

the state with the nation's first primary and a rich tradition of citizen participation in the presidential process. He ordered the "presidential pastrami" sandwich at a deli in Concord, spoke to activists in Nashua and ended with an enthusiastic rally at the University of New Hampshire.

Along the way, he "absolutely apologized" for saying Sunday the lives of U.S. servicemen and women killed in Iraq had been "wasted," and argued there are "pretty substantial" differences between his position and Clinton's on the war in Iraq, the clearest early line of demarcation between the two.

Obama said his biggest difference with Clinton involves the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. He favors pulling out all combat troops by March 31, 2008. He said Clinton "does not begin a phased redeployment." She has said she favors the start of such a redeployment but has not set a timetable.

Asked if senators who voted in favor of authorization bear some responsibility for the war in Iraq, Obama said the authorization allowed the administration to wage a war that has damaged national security. "I leave it up to those senators to make their own assessments in how they would do things differently or not," he said.

Obama's advisers expressed general satisfaction with the initial campaign swing. Still, they do not underestimate the difficulties ahead. Asked Monday what

they regard as the most significant question Obama must answer in the coming months, communications director Robert Gibbs answered without hesitation, "People want to know if he can handle this."

Obama has had little time to develop a Senate record of great significance. His advisers count on the public to use a broader definition of readiness, one that they hope will prize the candidate's unusual biography as a community organizer and a professor of constitutional law at the University of Chicago as much as his record in the state Senate.

Obama raised the issue of his policy agenda during a Sunday press conference with reporters in Ames, Iowa, chiding reporters for concentrating more on how he looks in a swimsuit than on what he has said about health care or energy or ending the Iraq war.

Still, a speech to the Democratic National Committee, in which he seemed to dismiss the significance of policy white papers, has ruffled through party circles as a sign that he believes other characteristics carry more weight with voters than coming off as a policy wonk.

Obama's advisers say his comment at the DNC was misunderstood, that it was a rhetorical way of saying leadership is needed more than new ideas to break the stalemate in Washington on domestic and international issues, and that he possesses that kind of leadership.

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## Iran calls U.S. accusations 'unfounded'

By Kim Murphy  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian officials Monday called U.S. accusations that it is arming Shiite militias in Iraq with tank-piercing explosives "unfounded" and insisted that Iran is committed to joining a regional effort to halt the violence.

The back-and-forth charges between Tehran and Washington highlight a growing recognition of Iran's substantial influence on its next-door neighbor and its ability, if nothing else, to prevent the United States from untangling the political conflicts that have plunged Iraq into sectarian warfare.

Here in the capital of the Shiite republic, it is an open secret that Iran is operating a quiet network of influence in Iraq that it can use either to help settle the conflict or to prevent the United States from reaching its goals there. Iranian officials insist they are committed to quelling instability they see as a threat to their own security.

Indeed, Iranians say, their image of an ideal settlement in Iraq looks remarkably like America's: a strong, democratically elected government in Baghdad (that would, by dint of Iraq's Shiite majority, be a natural ally of Iran's); an end to the violence, and preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity.

But with one important exception.

"The difference is, Iran doesn't want to see the U.S. claim victory. The U.S. shouldn't come out of this battle victorious. And Iranians perceive that the dominant part of that objective has been achieved," Tehran political scientist Nasser Hadian-Jazy said. "It is no longer plausible for the U.S. to claim victory in Iraq."

U.S. defense and intelligence officials' claims to have

found Iranian-manufactured armor-piercing projectiles similar to those believed to have killed 170 U.S. soldiers, have placed a heightened focus on longstanding U.S. claims about Iranian involvement in the war.

In Washington, a U.S. official acknowledged Monday that the U.S. material formed a "circumstantial" case but said military commanders in Baghdad provided solid evidence of Iranian involvement.

"So while they presented a circumstantial case, I would put to you that it was a very strong circumstantial case," said Sean McCormack, State Department spokesman. "The Iranians are up to their eyeballs in this activity, very clearly, based on the information that was provided over the weekend in Baghdad."

Here, the assertions serve a belief that America is using what Iran views as its natural influence on its neighbor as an opportunity to make Iran a scapegoat for U.S. failures.

"Right now, I think the United States wants to find someone to share this loss. Because they have indeed lost," said Mosayeb Naimi, a Tehran newspaper editor with long experience in the Arab world.

"The problem in Iraq is not just the (al-)Mahdi army militia or al-Qaida or any of the other military groups. It's the Americans lack a strategy to govern Iraq," he said. "Today, many of the groups of Iraq are making war against each other, and it's clear that Iran is more worried about security and safety in Iraq than the United States is. Because when violence increases in Iraq, it means the violence comes to Iran, also. So it's not unreasonable that Iran is increasing its (presence) there."

Iranian officials went out of their way to discount the evidence of weapons without issuing a specific, direct denial.

"They condemn us for making problems in Iraq, but they don't have any documentary proof," foreign ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hossaini told reporters.

"Lots of this evidence is fake, artificial. For example, when they wanted to start a war in Iraq, they made plenty of evidence that there were lots of weapons in Iraq, though the investigators of the International Atomic Energy Agency said they couldn't find any weapons in Iraq," he said. "Right now they're using weapons (with certain markings), but it doesn't prove where these weapons came from."

Political scientist Hadian-Jazy said it was relatively well known that Iran had developed a substantial network of support and resources in Iraq for use as a deterrent should the United States threaten aggression against Iran.

"Iran has developed an important infrastructure in Iraq. Intelligence, security, organization, people, weapons, networks, resources," he said.

"But these are principally for deterrence. In case anything happens. In case of a U.S. attack, these are there. And, in fact, they would like very much for the U.S. to know about it."

At the same time, Hadian-Jazy said, it is not credible to believe Iran has engaged in large-scale weapons deliveries to the Sunni Iraqi insurgents who have been responsible for the bulk of U.S. casualties.

"They're not going to support al-Qaida and the Baathists in Iraq. Because they're the ones who are killing the Shia. Yes, they're killing the Americans. But they're killing the Shia. By no means is it acceptable for Iran to support groups in Iraq who want to destabilize a friendly government and kill Shias," he said.



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# OPINIONS

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The Opinions page provides a forum for the exchange of ideas. Unlike news stories, the Kernel's assigned editorialists 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.

## Rally turnout was encouraging, but more is needed

Getting students to show up at the annual Rally for Higher Education in Frankfort has been a recent source of trouble for UK's Student Government.

Last year, only five UK students (in addition to Scratch, the mascot) came to the rally, in effect letting state legislators know that this campus couldn't care less about a potential tuition increase.

Thanks to SG's efforts, turnout wasn't nearly so dismal this year: 35 UK students, about half of whom were SG senators, showed up at the rally. And that was to voice support for an issue decidedly less exciting than a potential tuition increase — bonding authority for state universities.

SG Senate President Brent Burchett's declaration that attendance was "sort of mandatory" for senators evidently worked. Future officials should, at a minimum, continue the policy.

There is, however, much more work to be done. Higher involvement will be crucial next year, when the General Assembly is making the 2008-2010 budget — which, in effect, will determine how much UK will have to raise tuition in order to progress toward the state-mandated top-20 goal.

If UK's elected student representatives show up at the annual rally but few others do, it shows legislators that only the most politically active segments of this campus care about higher-education funding. In their minds, cutting funding for UK and thereby forcing a steep tuition hike won't anger enough students to jeopardize their seats or public images.

That's why Frankfort should be teeming with ordinary UK students — not just SG officials — at next year's Rally for Higher Education.

## KERNEL EDITORIAL

If state lawmakers know that hundreds of students are willing to give up half of their day in February to voice their opposition to funding cuts, they can bet that thousands will be willing to take a few minutes at the ballot box in November to vote for candidates who support higher education.

Contrary to recent experience, it won't be impossible to get busloads of students to go to Frankfort. In 2005, 75 UK students attended the rally, up from 70 in 2004, according to a Feb. 17, 2005, Kernel story.

It probably helped in 2005 that an outlandish 14.5 percent tuition increase had already been proposed, giving students a tangible motivation to go. But their activism brought results: The General Assembly ended up restoring millions of dollars in appropriations for UK's general fund, leading to a tuition increase of only 12.5 percent.

The 2005 experience shows that students' involvement in Frankfort politics can make a serious difference. Next year's SG leaders need to replicate what former SG President Rachel Watts did to bring 70 or more students to the rally for two years in a row. A major element of that is to drape campus with advertisements for the event — if SG candidates can put posters on every conceivable surface to try to win office, why can't senators do so to bring down tuition hikes?

We commend this year's SG leaders for giving UK a respectable presence at the rally. Next year, however, that presence ought to be overwhelming.

## Betts' legacy will benefit UK for many years to come

Two Fridays ago, the UK family lost one of its great ambassadors.

Raymond Betts, the founder of UK's Gaines Center for the Humanities and a historian with an "amazing imagination," died at the age of 81.

Betts' 27-year career at UK was nothing short of groundbreaking. As a history professor, he specialized in French colonialism of the 19th and 20th centuries. Two of his books on the subject were published after his retirement in 1998.

But Betts will perhaps be remembered more for his roles as an administrator. He created the UK 101 program for incoming freshmen and founded the Emerging Leader Institute.

In 1983, Betts founded the Gaines Center to offer a program to foster an appreciation for the humanities at UK.

The more than 200 Gaines Fellows that have completed the pro-

## KERNEL EDITORIAL

gram since its founding 23 years ago have Betts to thank for their rigorous training in the humanities and for the connections they have made while immersed in the program.

By all accounts, Betts was a dedicated teacher, researcher and administrator.

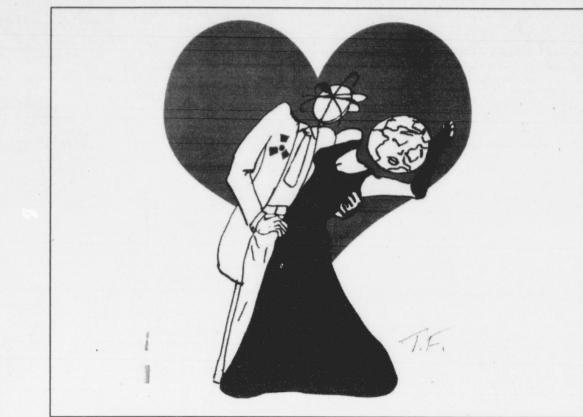
Current director of the Gaines Center Dan Rowland told the Kernel, "He has enriched ... all the lives of the faculty who have taught here and the students who have learned here."

Betts represents the type of professor UK should strive to attract and the type of educator that professors should strive to become.

As UK President Lee Todd said, "The impact (Betts) had on this university and on thousands of students will not soon be matched nor ever forgotten."



Betts



TONY FISHER, Kernel cartoonist

## Don't let hot issues overshadow the fight for felon's voting rights

The world has plenty of hot-button issues to talk about. Think about these words: abortion, gay marriage, taxes, gun control,

poverty, global warming, terrorism, affirmative action. Each of these words elicits strong feelings in just about everybody. Unfortunately, the dominance of such few issues causes some other very important issues to be ignored. I'd like to focus on one of those issues: the restoration of felons' voting rights.

In Kentucky, if a citizen is convicted of a felony, he or she can never vote again unless he or she gets a pardon from the governor. No matter how petty the felony you're convicted for — say, getting caught with marijuana for a second time — you can never vote again without a pardon from the governor. Kentucky is one of only three states — Virginia and Florida are the other two — that does not automatically restore civil rights to felons after they serve their time. Currently, this law affects 186,000 former felons in Kentucky.

To make matters worse, getting a pardon from the governor is nearly impossible. In 2004, Gov. Fletcher made it much harder for felons to receive a pardon by requiring that, in addition to sending three letters of recommendation, each applicant submit a statement explaining why his or her rights should be restored. According to the Kentucky Catholic Conference, the 2005-06 fiscal

## DEBATE



year saw only a 31.3 percent success rate of former felons applying for their civil rights. At the same time, applicants for voting rights plummeted, from 1171 in 2003-04 to 726 in 2005-06.

This is ridiculous. Why people who have paid their debt to society should be required to write an essay to regain the right to vote is beyond me. (Gov. Fletcher says he thinks applicants will "appreciate it (voting) more".)

This law should be changed for myriad reasons. People who are subject to our laws should have a say in our government, no matter who they are. That is a central tenant of democracy. As a state, we should be ashamed to remove the right to vote from anyone.

Additionally, the racial impact is enormous. According to the League of Women Voters, one in four African-Americans are disenfranchised in Kentucky; that's nearly triple the average disenfranchisement of African-Americans in the United States (8.25 percent) and four times the rate of disenfranchisement of all Kentuckians (5.97 percent). There is no way for me to adequately express my concern with those statistics, but I'll call them deplorable. It looks like we have a long way to go before we achieve a color-blind justice system.

## 2008 hopefuls provide strikingly different options for liberals and conservatives

The 2008 presidential election race is still 18 months away, but there are many hopeful candidates already working on campaigns. The front runners of each party — Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senator Barack Obama and Senator John Edwards for the Democrats; and Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Senator John McCain and Senator Sam Brownback for the Republican party — provide conservatives with a potential dilemma and liberals with the opportunity to change the political system of our country.

Registered Democrats will have a difficult time choosing a candidate during the primary election, as all three front running candidates boast high profile reputations, impressive political records and similar positions on the issues. All three candidates are popular with constituents, and provide a primary election in which all of the candidates are a reasonable choice for 2008.

Registered Republicans will have a slightly more difficult decision. One candidate, Senator Brownback, is considered to be very conservative, especially in terms of social issues. His social conservatism can be intimidating, however, and the results of this past election

demonstrated that voters are ready for a change in the political leadership of our country. Brownback looks to be strikingly similar to the current president, which could hurt his chances to take over the White House.

Senator McCain and Mayor Giuliani pose an interesting dilemma for Republican voters. Giuliani, loved by voters because of his poise in handling the events of Sept. 11, 2001, is a social liberal, though still identifying with the Republican Party because of other issues. Giuliani supports abortion rights, stem-cell research, gun control and same-sex civil unions.

Giuliani is popular among Republicans and Democrats alike, and he is perhaps the Republican Party's best chance at getting its candidate elected. Much like Brownback, however, he splits voters with his positions on controversial issues. Abortion and gay marriage are issues for which constituents will vote across party lines, the Republican voters that he loses may be made up for with Democratic votes.

Senator McCain creates controversy over his desire to provide amnesty to illegal immigrants already in this country; and his support of stem cell research seems to be at odds with his moderately pro-life positions. McCain was also at odds with President Bush about the potential torture of detainees and suspected terrorists. McCain provides voters with a rather liberal foreign policy stance but at the same time is fairly socially conservative.

With the exception of Senator

The expected benefits of restoring the right to vote to all felons upon serving their sentences are reason enough to pass this legislation. Isn't the point of prison to rehabilitate? How can we expect to reintegrate these folks into our society if we deny them the fundamental right of democracy?

Allowing former felons to vote lessens the chance that they will commit another crime. Kentuckians for the Commonwealth cites a study in the Columbia Human Rights Law Review that shows 27 percent of non-voters with a prior arrest are rearrested, while only 12 percent of voters with a prior arrest are arrested again. The core reason of liberty and justice for all is compelling, but coupled with this data that shows tangible benefits of this legislation adds to the case for restoring voting rights.

Kentucky should restore the right to vote to all felons after they have paid their debt to society because not doing so constitutes a failure of democracy. House Bill 70 — a bill which would call for an amendment to the Kentucky constitution to restore the right to vote to all felons who complete their sentence — has been jacked for the current session of the Kentucky legislature.

If you think this issue is important, please join UK College Democrats, the Black Student Union, the Newman Center, UK Amnesty International, Fayette County Young Democrats and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth as we host a screening of Democracy's Ghost, a film about this issue, at the W.T. Young Library and hear from a host of speakers who have been affected by this law.

Robert Kahne is a political science and economics sophomore. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



TARA BONISTALL  
Kernel columnist

## Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Wes Blevins. 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

## Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for new cartoonists to draw for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Cartoonists of all interests will be considered, but the Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in local issues.

Contact Wes Blevins at opinions@kykernel.com





# Volunteers plus Lofton a minus for Cats

**Travis Waldron**  
twaldron@kykernel.com

A little over two weeks ago, UK outscored Tennessee 45-25 in the second half to beat Volunteers 76-57 at Rupp Arena.

But that was a different Vol team than the one the Cats will face tonight at 7 at Thompson-Boling Arena.

In their previous meeting, the Vols were without Chris Lofton, the Southeastern Conference's leading scorer.

Lofton missed four SEC games with a sprained ankle but returned last week to lead the Vols to two wins.

"That's why he's an All-American candidate," said UK head coach Tubby Smith. "He's a guy who does a lot of things to help his team win. He forces you to stay out on him; you can't really help anywhere else when he's on the court."

UT (17-8, 5-5 SEC) finished second in the SEC Eastern Division in 2006, but without Lofton for the beginning of the season, UT limped to a 3-5 start in the SEC this season.

With Lofton back in the lineup, the Vols have picked up the pace on offense, scoring over 70 points in back-to-back games.

In the first meeting with UK, Tennessee shot only 36.9 percent, including a 30 percent second half that allowed UK to overcome a one-point halftime deficit.

But that was without Lofton. "He really stretches the defense," Smith said. "We've got to tweak the defense with someone like Lofton; he forces you to do that because he's so talented."

Lofton is averaging 20.6 points per game and he has made at least two three-pointers in 28 of his past 32 games. The Maysville native hit 10 three-pointers in two games against UK last season.

Even if the Cats hold Lofton in check, as they did Florida three-point ace Lee Humphrey this weekend, Smith said if that want to win, they will have to do something they did not do against the Gators — hit shots.

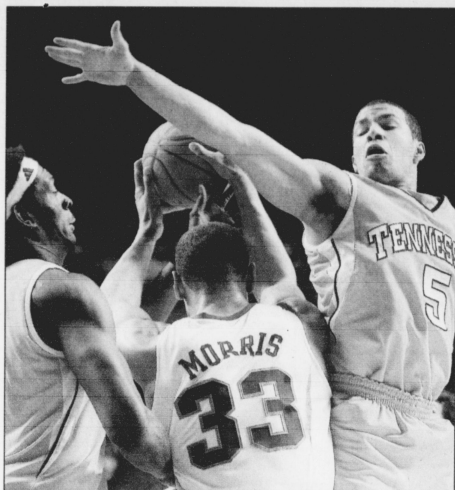
UK shot only 38.3 percent from the field against the national champions, including only three-of-22 from three-point range and 12-21 on free throws.

Smith said shooting well against the Vols is important since the Cats will be on the road, which makes overcoming a deficit even harder.

"We know we can't get behind," Smith said. "We've got to get better shots (on the road). Guys are a little more conscious of knowing, 'Let's keep this crowd out of it.'"

And keep Lofton out of it.

"It is going to be a big challenge, we have to take it upon ourselves to play like we are capable," said junior guard Ramel Bradley. "We can't let him (Lofton) get his shot off from anywhere on the court, anywhere at half court really — we just need to make him put it on the floor."



UK junior Randolph Morris tries to escape a Tennessee double team of Major Wingate and Chris Lofton last season in the Vols' 75-67 win. Lofton is known as dangerous on offense, not defense.

**Site** Rupp Arena, 7 p.m.  
**Series** UK leads 139-63  
**Television** ESPN  
**Coaches** UK: Tubby Smith (16th year overall, 383-138, 10th at UK 259-77)  
Tennessee: Bruce Pearl (15th year overall, 356-100, 2nd at Tennessee, 39-16)

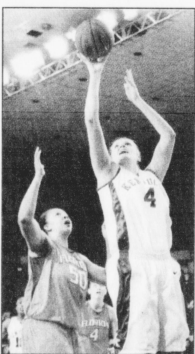
		STATS			
		UK (18-6, 7-3 SEC)			
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pts. Rb.
G	Ramel Bradley	6-2	176	Jr.	14.2 3.9*
G	Joe Crawford	6-5	211	Jr.	14.3 4.2
G	Derrick Jasper	6-6	213	Fr.	4.8 4.0
F	Bobby Perry	6-9	215	Sr.	7.0 3.8
C	Randolph Morris	6-11	259	Jr.	15.7 7.4

		Tennessee (17-8, 5-5 SEC)			
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pts. Rb.
G	JaiJuan Smith	6-2	198	Jr.	15.5 4.4*
G	Chris Lofton	6-2	200	Jr.	20.6 3.0
G	Ramel Smith	6-2	185	Fr.	10.2 3.1
F	Wayne Chism	6-9	245	Fr.	9.1 5.6
C	Dane Bradshaw	6-4	205	Sr.	6.2 4.8

**WHO TO WATCH**  
**For UK:** Randolph Morris. Morris got off to a slow start Saturday for the Cats but bounced back to finish with 18 points and nine rebounds. Morris will face a Tennessee lineup that features four starters no taller than 6-foot-4. With that disadvantage, the Cats will likely go to Morris first and often. He had one of his quietest outings of the year in the first match-up (nine points, four rebounds), so he will likely be looking to surpass that.

**For UT:** Wayne Chism. Freshman big man Wayne Chism was named SEC freshman of the week for his performance in wins over Louisiana State and Vanderbilt. Chism had 17 points and 12 rebounds in the 84-57 blow out win over Vanderbilt. Against LSU, he helped hold Tiger All-American candidate Glen Davis to just five points. In the first game this season, Chism had nine points and two rebounds.

## SPORTS BRIEFS



ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF  
UK junior center Sarah Elliott shoots in UK's 84-74 win over Florida on Feb. 4 at Memorial Coliseum.

UK shortstop Brooke Marnitz was named Southeastern Conference player of the week yesterday after she set an NCAA record for consecutive at bats with hits.

Marnitz hit safely in 12 straight at bats dating back to the final two games of last season, and reached base safely in 17 consecutive plate appearances. She helped the Cats to a 3-2 record this weekend at the Baylor Getteman Classic in Waco, Texas.

Marnitz started the classic going 4-for-4 against Stephen F. Austin. In that game, she had two singles, a double and a triple, leaving her only a home run shy of a cycle.

For the weekend, Marnitz was 9-14 with two doubles, two home runs, a triple and had nine runs batted in. She also extended her hitting streak to seven games.

Marnitz is the sixth UK player to earn the award since 2003.

The Cats plays Maine at home this Saturday and Sunday.

### UK Hoops falls to No. 3 Tennessee

A year after winning the biggest game in school history against No. 1 Tennessee, the UK women's basketball team lost to UT 82-64 Sunday in Knoxville, Tenn.

Candace Parker led the Lady Vols with 31

points. There was little doubt that the Vols would win the rematch between UT head coach Pat Summitt and the Cats' Mickie DeMoss as Tennessee led 25-13 midway through the first half. The Lady Vols led by as many as 25 in the first half.

UK pulled to 68-49 after Jennifer Humphrey converted a three-point play. The Cats couldn't get any closer.

Tennessee moved to 23-2 and remained undefeated in conference at 10-0. The Cats dropped to 16-10, 5-6 in the SEC.

UK plays Georgia Thursday at 7 p.m. at Rupp Arena.

### Gymnastics on the rise

Gymnastics moved the UK gymnastics teams up to No. 22 this week after the team posted its season-high score this weekend against Louisiana State.

UK is ranked in the top 25 on the vault, balance beam and uneven bars. UK is 20th in the vault with a 48.765 average, 24th on bars with 48.450 average and 25th on the balance beam with a 48.210 average.

For UK's 22nd straight week, the Cats are ranked in the top 25.

The Cats take on No. 1 Florida this week in Gainesville, Fla. UK lost its season opener to the Gators.

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**BLUE?**

If you're:

- Feeling down
- Irritable with others
- Avoiding friends
- Having trouble sleeping
- Losing or gaining weight
- Lacking motivation
- Crying often
- Thinking about suicide

It could be the weather.

Or it could be DEPRESSION.

Come to a FREE screening for depression and anxiety.

Thursday  
February 15, 2007  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
William T. Young Library  
Main Entrance

Sponsored by the UK Counseling & Testing Center, UK Student Mental Health, UK College of Medicine, and NAHL.

**Depression screening**  
2.15.07

# NEWTOWN CROSSING

## Top 10 Reasons to Live at Newtown Crossing

- 1) Voted #1 By UK Students
- 2) Short walk to Campus
- 3) Fully Furnished with ALL Major Appliances
- 4) Your own State of the Art Workout Facility
- 5) Free High Speed Internet and Basic Cable
- 6) Free Movie Theatre and Movie Rentals
- 7) Swimming Pool, Volleyball, and Basketball Court
- 8) FREE Tanning
- 9) 24hr Computer Lab
- 10) Our Very Own "BLUE LINE DINNER"

**IF YOU COME IN AND TELL US THE TOP 10 REASONS TO LIVE AT NEWTOWN WE WILL WAIVE THE APPLICATION FEE!!**

**351 Foreman Ave. • 859-226-5600**