



KENTUCKY KERNEL

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UK falls 10 spots in national rankings

By Jill Laster
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UK has fallen in the rankings among the nation's public and private universities, according to the 2008 issue of "America's Best Colleges" by U.S. News and World Report.

This year, UK ranks 122nd out of the 262 public and private American universities measured by the organization. Last year, UK tied for 112th.

"It's a limited snapshot," UK President Lee Todd said in an e-mail to the Kernel. "They provide a

check on some important areas — graduation rates being among the most important things we track.

"But they don't capture or measure the comprehensive breadth of attributes we are examining in our Top 20 Business Plan," Todd said.

Among public colleges and universities, UK is ranked 61st by U.S. News and World Report, down from 54th last year.

One of the goals of the Top 20 Business Plan is to make UK one of the top-20 public research institutions in the country by 2020. The business plan defines the ranking and measurement system that UK uses to compare itself to other col-

leges.

The rankings in the magazine measure only undergraduate education, said Roger Sugarman, UK's director of institutional research, while UK's top-20 plan also measures graduate education, faculty recognition and research.

"Undergraduate education constitutes just one-fourth of the top-20 composite score ranking model that we are using to evaluate the business plan," he said. "Therefore, comparisons between the two ranking systems

are not justified."

Sugarman also said that some educators and researchers nationwide have criticized the U.S. News rankings. One major reason, he said, is because the rankings fail to account for what college students learn.

"Arguably, educational quality is directly tied to what students actually learn in the classroom and in their co-curricular activities, such as community-based projects, internships and clinical assignments,"

See **Rankings** on page 2

Forum to discuss Kentucky colleges

By Katie Saltz
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Students with a complaint or compliment for UK will have a chance to voice their opinions Friday at a public forum.

All community members are invited to discuss higher-education reform with state business leaders from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Marriott Griffin Gate hotel. UK spokesman Jay Blanton said the voices at the forum would not go unheard.

"We need to know what improvements need to be made," Blanton said.

The forum is aimed at evaluating state universities and community colleges, and it is one of nine stops on a statewide tour hosted by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce's Postsecondary Education Task Force.

Besides tuition increases and funding, some communities have voiced concern over student transfers, the need for better policy coordination among schools and the number of freshmen needing remediation in math and English, said David Adkisson, CEO and president of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

This is the perfect time to evaluate the progress of Kentucky schools, Adkisson said in an e-mail to the Kernel.

"This is a very important time for higher education in Kentucky," Adkisson said. "This is the 10th anniversary of the higher education reforms of 1997, and we're approaching the halfway point in terms of achieving our state's higher education goals by 2020."

Blanton said UK welcomes the task-force study so that UK has the opportunity to hear public opinion.

"We are supportive of anything that gives us feedback," Blanton said. "UK and the rest of the universities in the state have made progress in their goals, and it makes sense to evaluate them from time to time."

UK will consider the results of the study as well as the response from the local community, Blanton said.

"We are eager to hear feedback from the public and ultimately the results of the Chamber of Commerce study," he said. "UK is focused on outcome and account-

See **Study** on page 2

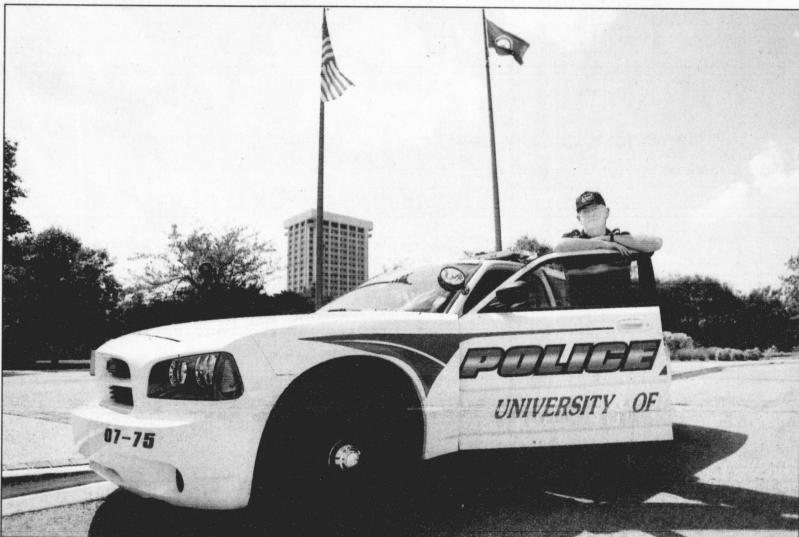


PHOTO BY ED MATTHEWS / STAFF
 Capt. Kevin Franklin poses next to one of the four new Dodge Chargers recently purchased by UK police to replace the aging Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors and Chevrolet Impalas. After Ford announced it would no longer be making the police-issue Crown Victoria, the Charger was selected for its reliability, Franklin said.

New rides charge campus streets

Dodge Chargers with latest equipment replace aging cruisers in UK police fleet

By Alice Haymond
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When UK police were looking for replacements for some of their police cars, Dodge Chargers, which have the highest rankings in recent police vehicle tests, won the bid.

"It doesn't hurt that they're nice-looking cars," said Capt. Kevin Franklin.

Four Dodge Chargers have found a home at UK police headquarters on the corner of Rose Street and Euclid Avenue. As the Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors and the Chevrolet Impalas finish out their life cycles, more will join them.

"The life of a police car is only about five years because there's so much wear and tear on the car," said Maj. Joe Monroe, UK's interim police chief.

The Chargers cost a couple hun-

dred dollars more than the Crown Victorias, and the agency paid for them out of its general operating budget.

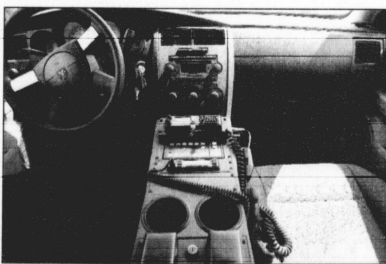
The Chargers are part of a new police package that Dodge offers, Monroe said, one that a lot of agencies have already bought and others are in the process of adopting.

New technology included in the Dodge package, such as cameras and a mobile data system, will be installed starting Aug. 31.

The system will allow officers to look up license plates and driver's licenses on the road. If they need to issue a traffic citation, officers can scan the barcode on the back of the driver's license and print the citation in the car.

"It'll speed things up tremendously," Monroe said. "That'll give officers

See **Chargers** on page 3



The current Chargers are equipped with essentially the same equipment as older patrol cars, Maj. Joe Monroe said, but they will soon be upgraded to have built-in radar, tapeless video cameras and in-car computers that officers can use to scan a driver's license and print citations.

City council takes step toward Sunday alcohol sales

By Kristin Stock
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Restrictions on Sunday liquor sales in Lexington could be lifted as soon as Nov. 1 if an ordinance that passed the city council on Tuesday is re-approved.

The ordinance, which passed in a 13-1 vote but must be approved in a second reading to take effect, would allow all retail businesses with a liquor license to sell alcohol on Sundays, including package sales, distilled spirits and liquor-by-the-drink.

Councilman David Stevens introduced the idea to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council and said many county residents have been supportive of the idea.

The change was necessary to allow Lexington the same economic advantage as other metropolitan areas like Louisville and Northern Kentucky in attracting visitors to the region, Stevens said.

Although he thinks it would increase business in the area, Stevens said the change would not affect the drinking habits of Lexington resi-

dents or the college community. "This will not augment or diminish drinking," Stevens said. "Alcohol abuse by students is by private sources."

Currently only some establishments can sell alcohol on Sundays — namely, restaurants that generate more than 50 percent of their revenue from food sales and are capable of seating 100 or more customers, along with some hotels and racetracks. Smaller businesses should have the same opportunity, Stevens said. Andrea James, the only council

member who voted against the extended sales of alcohol on Sundays, could not be reached for comment.

Local residents are divided in their opinions about the proposed change.

Mark Dowell, a secondary education major, said he thinks Sunday liquor sales would increase student drinking.

"It's a bad idea because it is God's day," Dowell said.

Roger Thurston, manager of Big

See **Alcohol** on page 2

New name, same mission for Women's Place

By Jesse Montana McCoy
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After two and a half years, UK Women's Place is hoping a name change will make it clear the center is open to both genders.

Director Dorothy Edwards hopes the new name, Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, will attract more men to the center.

Since the creation of UK Women's Place in 2005, Edwards said it has never been completely clear to men that they can seek help at the center as well. The mission of the center is to stop all violence at UK, Edwards said.

"We provide services and support for men as well," she said. "It was very important to have a gender-neutral name."

Edwards said there is an urgent need to have both men and women involved, and that she can't stress enough that more people need to do their share to stop violence at UK.

"We can reduce violence, but everyone has to do their part," she said.

Since the change to VIP over the summer, many more students have volunteered at the center than in previous years.

"In two and a half years, we've gone from a handful of students to literally hundreds of students who have walked in and wanted to volunteer," she said. "This year, we're going to explode."

Psychology senior Anthony Tanner said

See **VIP** on page 2

UK keeps mum about new location for proposed retirement community

By Kenny Colston
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UK's plans to build a new retirement community have fallen through twice in the past year and a half, but the university has again selected a location for the home.

However, officials from both UK and the Praxeis Group, the Florida-based firm that is managing the project, have declined to say where the location is until a Sept. 6 news conference. UK spokesman Jay Blanton and Praxeis executive vice president Matt Weaver said, but not respond to inquiries about the new site.

Two previously announced locations for the retirement community, which will be named Limestone Crossing and will serve UK alumni and former employees, were abandoned after objections came to light.

UK announced in July 2006 that it planned to locate the new

facility at Spindletop Farm in northern Lexington. Those plans were scrapped because of vocal opposition from Spindletop Club members who thought the retirement center would disrupt the site's recreational facilities, along with complications regarding zoning laws and sewage capacity.

UK also canceled plans to build the community at the Coldstream Research Campus because of concerns of noise in the area.

Limestone Crossing is expected to hold between 400 and 450 residents, Weaver said, but it is too early to completely nail down a number.

"We are still in the planning stages," Weaver said. "A lot of these communities attract couples; it really depends on how many couples we have."

Weaver said that market figures show that usually 50 to 75 percent of communities like the planned Limestone Crossing are made up of couples.

Construction is slated to begin in 2010 and end in 2012, but Weaver said the schedule depends on how fast the units sell.

"We are hoping to sell 70 percent of our units to show enough demand," Weaver said. "After that, we'll move to the design part and then overall pricing."

Weaver said that after the Praxeis Group receives a 10 percent deposit on at least 190 of the units, the rest of the costs will be provided by taxable bonds.

"We plan on having the lowest fees possible for our services," Weaver said. "It'll be a self-containing project; all costs will go to construction, health care and other services."

The community will offer a "laundry list" of services, Weaver said, including skilled nursing, assisted-living or private rooms, memory support, a number of dining venues, and classrooms.

RANKINGS

Continued from page 1

Sugarman said. "Without direct and comparable assessments of student learning, any ranking system will fall short of capturing the most important aspects of what goes on academically at an institution."

The U.S. News and World Report ranking is based 75 percent on objective measures, such as each university's graduation rate and student-to-faculty ratio.

Todd criticized the magazine's rankings, citing that the other 25 percent of each university's score is based on a peer assessment survey. The survey asks each school's president, provost and dean of admissions to rate all of the other

universities measured, as well as their own.

"I think perception lays a little behind reality," Todd said. "We don't spend a lot of money mailing glossy brochures and promotional materials about ourselves."

A representative from U.S. News and World Report told the Kernel in an e-mail that the peer survey provides invaluable information to prospective students and parents.

"The reputation of a school is something that students take with them their whole life," the e-mail said.

"It's especially meaningful getting a first job out of college or applying to grad school."

Todd said UK

"The reputation of a school is something that students take with them their whole life."

US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT SPOKESMAN

However, he said UK will continue to focus on its Top 20 Business Plan.

"I'm confident that we are making significant strides toward our goal of becoming a top-20 public research institution," Todd said.

VIP

Continued from page 1

VIP helped him after he became a victim.

Although violence against women is a large problem, Tanner said he wants people to be aware that violence against men is also an important issue.

"Everyone needs to feel welcome, no matter what (his or her) gender is," he said.

Taneshia House, a sociology and gender and women's studies junior, is an executive student board member for VIP. She started working with the center her sophomore year after viewing "In Our Own Voices," a series of monologues and short plays about violence against young men and women.

House said she and female members of her family have been victims of violence, and VIP made her realize she could help prevent it from happening.

She agreed the name change will make the center feel more accessible to men.

"They'll see something that is neutral and open," she said.

STUDY

Continued from page 1

ability." The study has already visited several Kentucky cities, and Adkisson said that the response has been good, but the concerns vary for each region.

"In our regional town hall meetings, we have heard about the unique economic and educational needs of the distinct regions," Adkisson said. "For example, the needs of Northern

Kentucky are very different from Pikeville and from Paducah."

The main goal is to improve the state's economic well being, Adkisson said, and this study will determine the progress of the higher education reforms.

"Our state cannot prosper economically unless more citizens have access to a college or university education and are motivated to achieve that education," he said.

ALCOHOL

Continued from page 1

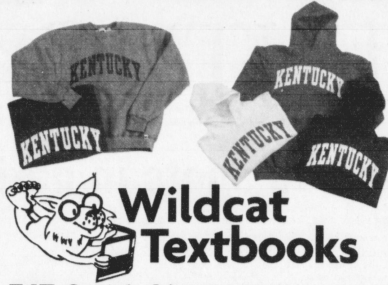
Daddy's Liquor Store on Woodland Avenue, said he thinks allowing alcohol sales on Sundays would help cut back on drunk driving among students, who make up 80 to 85 percent of Big Daddy's clientele.

"Why not let students go to the store and buy some instead

of going to a bar so they do not get in trouble with the law?" Thurston said.

Dana Macaulay, assistant director for student rights and responsibilities at UK Student Affairs, believes the change will not affect residential life because most students living on campus are under 21, and it would be too much trouble for them to obtain alcohol and bring it into residential housing.

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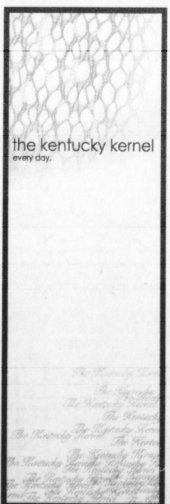
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CHARGERS

Continued from page 1

cers time to take more calls and work on enforcement issues."

A new camera system will also be installed. Currently, digital tapes store the footage. The new system will transfer footage wirelessly so that it will automatically go to the police server for evidence when the car returns to the station.

The wireless technology will cost more than the tapes initially, but over time the expense will balance.

UK police has not bought new cars since 2005, when it bought three, and Monroe said the fleet was due for replacement. The new Chargers have

replaced cars that are five to nine years old.

Monroe said the Chargers are more efficient than the Crown Victorias and the Impalas. Chargers have LED lights rather than standard bulbs, which last 100,000 hours to standard bulbs' 1,200 hours, Franklin said.

While Franklin said the maintenance improvements, like efficient lights, are "nearest and dearest" to his heart, he said he can't deny the aesthetic appeal of the car.

There are also numbers on the top of the cars for better identification recognition from patrol helicopters in the sky.

The cars ranked the highest in several categories, including acceleration, braking response and top speed, in the annual po-

lice vehicle testing study by Michigan State Police. The Chargers can travel up to 148 mph. The Crown Victorias, which can reach 130 mph, were not in the top three in any of the tested categories, and the Impala ranked second in each one.

UK police hope to add three or four more Chargers by 2008 to replace more aging cars, Monroe said. Until then, only patrol division supervisors will drive the cars.

"They're a great car," Monroe said. "They handle very well for this environment."

Practically the only thing that isn't different on the cars is the decal design, Monroe said, which was something he wanted to change but that the department couldn't afford.

\$216 million pledged for national parks — if Congress matches funds

By Michael Doyle
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A first-of-its-kind pledge drive has secured promises of \$216 million to help pay for hundreds of projects at national parks.

Corporations, nonprofits and wealthy individuals, among others, have all lined up to contribute to the program being unveiled Thursday at Yosemite National Park. The dollars would fund everything from restoring beat-down meadows to rehabilitating old buildings.

"This is money that people are falling all over themselves to give to us," National Park Service spokesman David Barna said Wednesday.

But there's a catch. The "partnership" pledges being announced by Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and National Park Service Director Mary Bomar first require Congress to kick in an additional \$100 million. Together, the federal and non-federal funding would initiate what the Bush administration calls the park service's "centennial challenge."

The proposed matching-fund program would raise \$3 billion between now and the National Park Service's centennial in 2016, under the Bush administration plan. The laboriously choreographed event Thursday, including a late-morning hike to Yosemite Falls, marks Kempthorne's first visit to Yosemite as well as the first public disclosure of the pledges made so far.

"This shows that if we provide matching dollars, there are a lot more dollars we can get for the parks," Yosemite Superintendent Mike Tollefson said Wednesday. "It shows there is a definite interest in the public to make this happen."

Officials at every park submitted potential pro-

jects for inclusion in a detailed database. They also had to provide a list of financial support, which would be triggered once Congress acts. The park service wouldn't release the list of requests Wednesday.

But Yosemite, for instance, proposes joining with the private Yosemite Fund to make improvements around the extremely popular area known as the "tunnel view," Tollefson told McClatchy Newspapers.

In many cases, as with the Yosemite Fund, parks are already receiving assistance from the partners now offering designated "centennial challenge" pledges. Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Grand Canyon and a number of other national parks already have individual park foundations.

About 64 percent of the pledged funds come from nonprofit partners, Tollefson said.

In other cases, park officials were able to secure new sources of money. About 3 percent of the total pledges came from corporations, 1 percent from individuals and the rest from state and local governments.

So far, Congress is wrestling with how the parks program might work, and congressional Democrats differ from the White House in key areas. Lawmakers, for instance, propose offsetting the added federal parks spending with higher fees for commercial use of public land. Bomar called the higher fees "unacceptable."

The White House and some lawmakers also differ on the significance of the matching funds. The White House's version, introduced by Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, would only fund projects for which both federal and partnership dollars were provided. Compensating bills wouldn't require the same kind of matching contributions.

University of Illinois cancels training partnership with Blackwater

By E.A. Torriero and Jodi S. Cohen
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — The University of Illinois has canceled a partnership between its prestigious police-training institute and controversial military contractor Blackwater, citing a possible conflict of interest.

University officials say the institute's director, Tom Dempsey, was not upfront about a personal agreement he made to work as a contractor for Blackwater, even as he planned the official partnership. The university continues to investigate the case while Dempsey remains on leave, using accrued vacation time to work for Blackwater in Afghanistan, training local police in drug enforcement.

University officials began investigating the ties with Blackwater after a Chicago Tribune report in late July. Since then, the Tribune has obtained e-mails between Dempsey and other university employees, showing he was arranging Blackwater's partnership with the university while also putting a deal for himself into motion.

Dempsey also asked some of his employees at the institute not to talk about his work for Blackwater, according to e-mail printouts dating back to April.

In separate e-mail correspondence with the Tribune, Dempsey said he does not see a conflict between his work in Afghanistan and his role in executing the partnership with Blackwater, a pact that allows the state institute and private contractor to exchange staff and students, share facilities and collaborate on training.

He says he went through the proper channels to obtain permission for each venture and did not try to deceive anybody.

But in a pointed exchange with Dempsey, university officials said he did not meet his obligation to tell ranking officials the whole story.

"The facts are that you were negotiating both the (Blackwater partnership) and future employment with Blackwater at the same time and no one above you was informed of both of these relationships," Peg Rawles, an associate chancellor, wrote in a recent e-mail to Dempsey. "The chronology raises more questions than answers."

Documents obtained by the Tribune also show that Dempsey asked institute workers to cover up for him in his absence.

"How about a party line if anyone even inquires," Dempsey wrote to a colleague in May. "If anyone pins you down, not a problem being honest but I'd leave Blackwater's name out of the conversation."

After the Tribune began inquiring about Blackwater, Dempsey wrote to a colleague: "I am confident you did not tell anyone ... I was working for (Blackwater)."

In the letter to Blackwater ending the agreement, University of Illinois chancellor Richard Herman said that it was entered into "in a manner which was inconsistent with university policy," without the knowledge or consent of anyone in the police training institute's direct reporting line.

University spokeswoman Robin Kaler said it was problematic that university officials who approved the training institute's agreement with Blackwater did not know about Dempsey's consulting job. The Blackwater agreement was executed through one branch of the

University system while the vacation request was put in through another.

"When an administrator is asked to sign off on something like this, he or she needs to have the complete picture," Kaler said.

Kaler said university officials are reviewing ways to tighten approval procedures. They also are considering whether Dempsey-38 will retain his \$118,178-a-year job.

A Blackwater spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment. No money has been exchanged between the university and Blackwater, although Blackwater stood to gain prestige by partnering with the highly-regarded institute. Dempsey has claimed that the institute, which trains state police officers, would benefit from Blackwater's expertise in international law enforcement.

Dempsey's e-mails, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, suggest he does not believe he withheld information from the university and he feels betrayed by officials who have not defended him publicly.

"It wasn't for needing to support my family and clear my name I would tell the University (to expel) themselves," Dempsey wrote in an Aug. 2 e-mail to three people, possibly colleagues or personal friends.

Dempsey told the Tribune that his work for Blackwater not only enhances the university's reputation in police training, but also fulfills a national agenda in protecting the country during the war on terror.

"This opportunity is a once in a lifetime chance to play a small role in efforts to assist the Afghan police in addressing the opium problem that plagues

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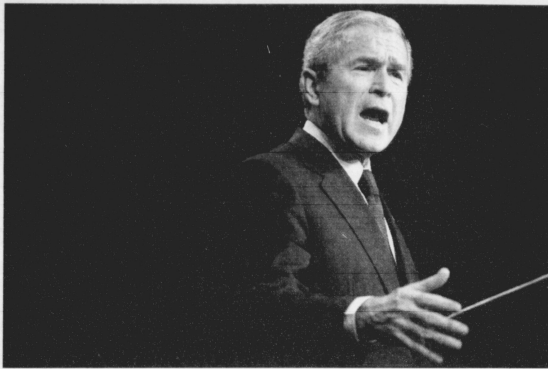
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DAVID EULITT | KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT
President George W. Bush addresses the VFW 108th National Convention at the Kansas City Convention Center yesterday in Kansas City, Missouri.

Bush steps up surge sales pitch

By William Douglas and Margaret Talev
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President Bush stepped up his high-pressure sales job Wednesday to stay the course in Iraq, illustrating how the administration is both shifting the goalposts it once set for measuring success there and changing the political dynamic inside Congress on what to do about it.

Bush now seems likely to prevail when Congress resumes wrestling about Iraq in September, for reports of limited military progress in Iraq have stiffened Republicans' support for Bush's policy while putting Democrats on the defensive. Without more Republican support, Democrats can't overcome Bush's veto power to force a change in policy.

"Our troops are seeing this progress that is being made on the ground," Bush declared in a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Kansas City, Mo., the first in a new round of speeches on the war. "And as they take the initiative from the enemy, they have a question: Will their elected leaders in Washington pull the rug out from under them just as they're gaining momentum and changing the dynamic on the ground in Iraq?"

Bush's argument underscores the high stakes in Washington as lawmakers await a Sept. 11 report by Gen. David Petraeus on the president's troop-surge policy. Recent reports that the U.S. surge has helped tamp down violence, reduced civilian deaths and forged an alliance with Sunni tribal chiefs in Anbar province against al-Qaida in Iraq have made pro-withdrawal U.S. lawmakers vulnerable to political attack.

Bush voiced confidence that the surge is working, even while admitting frustration about the lack of progress toward political reconciliation in Iraq. That was supposed to be the key measure of the surge's success, the administration had said early this year when it launched the plan. The surge was supposed to ease security stress enough for Iraq's rival factions to begin cooperating. That hasn't happened.

The shifting military and political landscape was evident in Bush's assessment Wednesday of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. One day after implicitly faulting Maliki for failing to foster progress toward political reconciliation, Bush offered a full-throated endorsement of him, calling him a "good guy, a good man with a difficult job."

Reports of tactical military progress haven't changed Democrats' plans to hold more House and Senate votes on deadlines for U.S. troop withdrawal when they return in September. But those reports have dampened Democrats' prospects of getting more Republicans to join them. That means that Bush, wielding veto power if he must, is likely to prevail on Iraq policy, for Democrats lack the two-thirds majorities they need to overcome his veto.

Nevertheless, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said following Bush's speech that "the president's strategy is still failing to deliver the political solution necessary for Iraq's stability. A change of course in Iraq is long overdue, and Congress will continue to fight for that change in the coming weeks."

Republicans said that reports of military progress in Iraq have greatly eased pressure on their members to abandon the war. They may even be able to put Democrats on the defensive.

"While political reconciliation at the national level has come too slowly, grassroots reconciliation in provinces like Anbar and other Iraqi towns is encouraging," said House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Mexico examines storm's aftermath

By David Ovalle and Martin Merzer
McClatchy Newspapers

SALAMANCA, Mexico — Though the closest city escaped catastrophic damage from Hurricane Dean, the storm ravaged the livelihoods of a historic people so isolated that the only hint of modernity comes from the jetliners that fly overhead.

They are not indigenous Mayas. They are Mennonites, 800 descendants of 16th-century European Protestant reformers, who mostly shun the modern world but boarded buses and found shelter from the storm inside the city of Chetumal.

Now, as Dean made its final landfall Wednesday near Tuxpan and weakened inland, they inspected their settlement in the Yucatan Peninsula — accessible only by a precarious mud road through an otherwise impenetrable swamp — and confronted this reality:

Ninety percent of their homes were destroyed. Their corn crop lay flattened. Their horse-drawn buggies leaned to this side and that, battered beyond repair.

"There's nothing. Now we have nothing left," said Isaac Dick, 27, whose one-room wood-and-tin home near the Caribbean coast imploded as though it were balsa wood and aluminum foil crushed by a child's thumb.

Six hundred miles away, along Mexico's Gulf Coast, Dean restrengthened to Category 2 intensity with 100-mph winds as its core slammed the nation for the final time, making landfall near Tecolutla, 40 miles south-southeast of Tuxpan.

Then, it moved inland, weakened and was demoted to a tropical storm.

Widespread flooding and modest damage were reported along the coast, and officials expressed deep concern about the possibility of flash floods and mudslides inland as Dean's still-abundant rain worked through Mexico's mountains.

Floods and landslides in that area killed hundreds in 1999.

Dean's death toll in the Caribbean already stood at 20 before it reached Mexico, rising by seven as Haitian officials reported more death. Thus far, no reports of storm-related death or serious injury have emerged from Mexico.

Along the country's Caribbean coast, where a much stronger version of the storm made its first Mexican landfall, the Quintana Roo state capital of Chetumal

escaped catastrophic damage.

Not so in Mahahual, a small, up-and-coming beach resort that thrived mostly on money from the cruise industry and its tourists.

Now, it's known as the coastal spot first hit by Dean's eye wall and its most powerful, 165-mph winds.

On Wednesday, authorities allowed business owners and residents back into Mahahual, an hour's drive from the main highway through a biological preserve.

Even then, the view of the Caribbean was stunning — except on the beach, where it appeared that an invasion fleet had bombarded the white sand.

Rows of tourist shops stood blown out. Three small fishing boats lay entwined in thick trees 200 yards from the beach. At a ruined outdoor market, wind chimes usually sold to tourists still hung, now clinking against the fallen stilt of a tin roof.

"It looks like Iraq," said Jose Rogelio Juarez, 46, who found his gift shop emptied by the winds, with a layer of sand and coconuts inside. "It looks like a beach in here."

The town's fledgling tourist infrastructure was gone, too. The vital dock for cruise ships suffered extreme damage.

The details were different but the outcome much the same in Salamanca, the 5,000-acre farming settlement of Mennonites seven miles from the nearest paved road.

Their ancestors fled persecution in Holland hundreds of years ago, first to Germany, then Russia, Canada, Chihuahua in Mexico, Belize and finally, four years ago, the swamps of Salamanca.

Mostly blonde and light-eyed, they still speak a mix of German and Dutch, travel by horse-drawn cart and use kerosene lamps to light their homes. Few speak Spanish.

Amid the bustle outside the shelters in Chetumal, they were distinguished by their attire — plaid dresses and bonnets for the women; dark trousers, suspenders, long-sleeved shirts and straw caps for the men.

The government provided buses for them, to and from the farms. But the devastation was amplified by their humble lifestyle. Strict Mennonites believe modern technology taints their faith.

Said Jacobo Dick, no relation to Isaac: "I don't even have 50 pesos. Now we have nothing."

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POSITION PREVIEW: DEFENSIVE LINE

Late-season surge has Jarmon flying high in 2007

Travis Waldron
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With the 2006 UK football season at a crossroads, Jeremy Jarmon decided it was time to step up.

His coaches had gotten on him during the early part of the season, urging the red-shirt defensive end to work harder and play with more intensity.

Nine games into the season, Jarmon had yet to sack a quarterback and had made just one tackle for loss. But few UK players came up with bigger plays than Jarmon did in his final four games.

Jarmon started his late-season surge with a fumble recovery that led to a UK touchdown in an upset victory over Georgia. The next week he helped the Cats clinch their first bowl appearance since 1999 with his first two career sacks against Vanderbilt. Just a week later, with UK holding on to a 2-point lead and Louisiana-Monroe swatted down a pass and preserved the seventh victory of the season. He finished with sacks against Tennessee and Clemson.

In 2007, Jarmon, a third-year sophomore, is focused on proving he can sustain that production for a full season.

"It's my time to step up and anchor the left side of the defensive line," Jarmon said. "I need to show that I belong out there and can be a consistent player year-round and not just come on strong like I did (at the end of) last year."

Jarmon will anchor a line that will be important to improving a defense that ranked 118th in the nation (of 119 teams) in total defense and 108th in rushing defense a season ago.

The defensive line's struggles were evident, as UK surrendered over 180 rushing yards per game and had only 26 sacks in 2006.



KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Sophomore defensive lineman Jeremy Jarmon makes a tackle against Vanderbilt on Nov. 11, 2006. Jarmon is hopeful he can build on last year's late-season success.

For Jarmon, the key to improving those numbers is as simple as staying focused and working harder.

"We have to get into the film room and start paying attention to detail," he said. "A lot of teams, they're not doing anything different out there. We have to perform as a unit and not be individuals out there."

Jarmon and the rest of the defensive line fell under more pressure to improve after learning they will be without Nii Adjei Oinku. The junior defensive end, who was expected to start opposite of Jarmon on the defensive line, tore his medial collateral ligament and anterior cruciate ligament during the second week of fall practice and will miss the entire season.

Head coach Rich Brooks is confident, though, that his defensive line can fill the void.

"We have Dominic Lewis, Jamil Paris and Travis Day, who is having a very good camp," Brooks said.

Coming up Tomorrow: Running Backs Monday: Offensive Line

Lewis, a senior, battled injuries throughout the season while playing in all 13 games. Paris ran a sub-4.5-second 40-yard dash in the spring, the fastest time by a lineman in Brooks' tenure at UK.

Brooks is also confident in his defensive tackles, led by junior Myron Pryor, who had 42 tackles and five sacks while battling assorted injuries in 2006.

Sophomore Corey Peters and redshirt freshman Ricky Lumpkin head the battle for the second tackle position, and both have Brooks excited.

"(Peters) came off an outstanding freshman season," Brooks said. "(He's) ready to emerge as a big-time player. We couldn't block (Lumpkin) in practice. Hopefully our opponents will have a hard time blocking him."

Senior J.D. Craigman, a converted defensive end, will also get playing time at tackle, Brooks said.

First-year defensive coordinator Steve Brown pushed the defensive line to focus on its successful end to the 2006 season. In the Music City Bowl, UK held Clemson, the fifth-best rushing offense in the nation, to 130 rushing yards, 87 below its season average. The line also pressured Clemson quarterback Will Proctor throughout the game and helped cause four sacks and four turnovers.

If the defensive line can keep the aggressive mentality it used to derail Clemson, it can improve, Brown said.

"(We're) continuing to think along the same process (as against Clemson)," Brown said. "Confident, aggressive defense... They can just go and be aggressive and not worry about making a mistake and just play aggressive football. Go. Attack. Make plays. Period."

FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Brooks: Cats still haven't arrived on national stage

By Travis Waldron
twaldron@kykernel.com

Even though UK is coming off its most successful football season since 1984, head coach Rich Brooks acknowledged that his team still has plenty to prove.

"I don't think that we have arrived," Brooks said yesterday at the UK Alumni Kickoff Luncheon.

"The only time you've arrived in college football is when you're thought of in the pre-season, like the rest of the teams in our league. If we were already in that category, we would be ranked in the top 25 in the nation. One year doesn't mean you've arrived."

UK's 8-5 record in 2006 was an important step toward that success, Brooks said.

"It was a fun year and a very important year to get us to the point where now we can accomplish something if we go back to back," he said. "We're excited about what we can accomplish, and having said that, we need to go out on the field and do it."

The Cats need to forget about what they did in 2006 and start focusing on 2007 if they want to keep improving, senior wide receiver Keenan Burton said — especially with the season opener just over a week away.

"It's time for us not to talk about it but to be about it," Burton said.

The Cats don't deserve a top-25 ranking but are close, Brooks said, adding that if UK wins its first three games against Eastern Kentucky, Kent State and Louisville, it shouldn't have "any problem being in the top 25."

Woodyard, Woodson elected team captains

Brooks announced yesterday that the team elected senior linebacker Wesley Woodyard and senior quarterback Andre Woodson as captains after Tuesday night's scrimmage.

"The good news is that it was a tough election because there are a lot of very good leaders on this team," Brooks said. "We have a lot of talented, committed young men that have brought great leadership to this program. Without those players and their leadership, last year wouldn't have happened."

Both Woodyard and Woodson were All-Southeastern Conference selections last season. Woodyard led the Cats with 122 tackles, while Woodson recently earned first-team preseason All-America honors from ESPN.com.

Williams wins starting job

Junior Johnny Williams and sophomore Sam Maxwell entered fall camp battling for the starting nod at strong side linebacker. Brooks said yesterday that Williams had won the spot.

"He performed very well a week ago and reinforced that (Tuesday) night," Brooks said of Williams' scrimmage performances. "He has moved into the starting spot."

Maxwell entered camp as the favorite after Williams, who started seven games in 2006, missed most of spring practice with a wrist injury.

Williams will join Woodyard and junior middle linebacker Braxton Kelley as UK's starting linebackers.

Volleyball returns talent, gets depth from recruits

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

Advancing past the first round in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1992 was no small achievement for the UK volleyball team last year.

But with a highly touted recruiting class coming in and one of the fiercest front lines in the Southeastern Conference, head coach Craig Skinner believes his squad can achieve even more this year.

"Our NCAA Tournament appearance, with the recruiting we had this year and our leadership, gives us a foundation to continue to the success we had last year," Skinner said.

During the Cats' break-through season last year, they managed to knock off ranked opponents for the first time since 1993 while making back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances for the first time since 1992-93. Skinner hopes this year's team can build on those achievements.

"Each year our goal is to win the SEC," Skinner said. "We've given ourselves standards to get to that. We won't talk about the SEC championship every day, but we will talk about getting better every day."

Getting better means making a run at an SEC championship this season and advancing farther in the NCAA Tournament, said senior blocker and co-captain Nicole Brienker.

"My expectations are to win — to record as many W's as possible," Brienker said. "It's in the future, but we can definitely advance to the Elite Eight."

Skinner and his players are not the only ones thinking the Cats can grab more wins this season. In a preseason poll taken earlier this month, SEC coaches picked UK to finish second in the conference, behind Florida. The Cats also received votes in the pre-season American Volleyball Coaches Association poll.

The preseason votes are an indication of a change in attitude surrounding the volleyball program, Skinner said.

"(The rankings) are a sign of respect," Skinner said. "It at least makes the opponent think about what they have to do, but it also helps us prepare for every match we go into."

Although the Cats have plenty of talent returning, they have the difficult task of replacing All-SEC libero Jenni Casper, a four-year starter who anchored UK's defense throughout her career.

Skinner has narrowed the competition down to junior Alisa Pierce and sophomore Brianna Sauer, and he doesn't see the defense being any sort of weakness this year.

"We are very confident our defense will be as good or better than in the past," Skinner said. "We feel that's a trademark of who we are as a program."

While defense may be the trademark, the talent returns on the front line with All-SEC

See Volleyball on page 10

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More toys recalled for containing lead

By Maurice Possley
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — The Consumer Product Safety Commission on Wednesday announced four recalls of Chinese-manufactured children's jewelry and toys containing the toxic metal lead, including 250,000 SpongeBob SquarePants address books and journals.

The federal agency formally announced the recall of 66,000 toy tops and 4,700 toy pails by Schylling Associates Inc., a Massachusetts toymaker, for containing lead in the handles.

The number of toys recalled is nearly 20,000 more than the 51,000 toys Schylling announced it would recall two weeks ago. The company announced the earlier recall after tests performed on a Thomas and Friends spinning top at the request of the Chicago Tribune showed a lead level 40 times higher than the legal limit.

The Schylling toys covered by the recall are tops and pails painted with Thomas & Friends, Curious George or a circus scene. The tops were sold for about \$13 and the pails for about \$6 between July 2001 and July 2002.

After the Chicago Tribune disclosed the test results to the company, officials said they found a June 2002 test report showing that the Thomas & Friends top contained lead paint on its wooden knob. A month later, the company decided to shift to a plastic knob, but it never disclosed the test results or recalled the toys.

Jack Schylling, company president, said in a statement that the number of toys being recalled jumped by 15,000 because "while there has been no indication that an increased number of tops contain lead, we are casting the widest net possible in the interest of the consumer and are recalling every top made from our manufacturer between 2001 and 2002."

The safety commission said that Martin Designs Inc. of Ashland, Ohio, was recalling the ad-

dress books and journals that feature the popular television character SpongeBob SquarePants because the paint on the metal spiral bindings can contain excessive levels of lead. The items sold in retail stores across the country from June 2006 through July for about \$2 each, the agency said.

A Chicago Tribune analysis of safety commission records shows that while there have been 140 lead recalls since the toxic metal was banned in 1977, 75 of them, or 54 percent, have occurred since January 2004. Of those, 27 have been for lead paint, and 38 have been for lead metal. Nearly 90 percent of the products recalled for lead since 2004 were manufactured in China.

Wednesday's recalls are just the latest in a series of lead-based recalls of high-profile toys. Those include nearly 1 million Fisher-Price toys and 1.5 million Thomas & Friends wooden railway toys. Last week, Mattel Inc. recalled 253,000 of its Sarge die-cast metal toy jeeps.

The lead recalls, as well as numerous other recalls of toys and other products manufactured in China, have prompted federal legislators to propose laws that would ban importing these products unless they have been certified as safe through independent testing.

One of those sponsors, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) said Wednesday that he would be meeting with toy company executives over the next several days to enlist their support for a third-party testing bill.

"It looks like this issue is not going away," Durbin said in a telephone interview.

"The toy industry is becoming alarmed, and they are going into the holiday season when they have the majority of their sales. We need to create a new safeguard to prevent more dangerous toys from being sold."

The two other recalls involved children's jewelry that was found to contain excess levels of lead, according to the safety commission.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police Reports from Aug. 17 to Aug. 21

- Aug. 17. A red Jeep Cherokee was reported to be on fire behind W.T. Young Library at 7:35 a.m.
- Aug. 17. Theft reported from UK Hospital at 12:44 p.m.
- Aug. 17. Theft of bike reported from Greg Page Apartments at 4:02 p.m.
- Aug. 17. Theft from a car at Commonwealth Stadium reported at 4:08 p.m.
- Aug. 17. Theft of an equipment key reported from UK Hospital at 5:18 p.m.
- Aug. 17. Suicide attempt by taking broken glass to wrists reported from UK Hospital at 7:35 p.m.
- Aug. 18. Alcohol intoxication reported from Virginia Avenue at 12:55 a.m.
- Aug. 18. Alcohol intoxication reported from Huguete Drive at 1:14 a.m.
- Aug. 18. Theft reported from Blazer Hall at 2:52 p.m.
- Aug. 18. Alcohol intoxication reported from Newtown Crossing at 10:35 p.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication reported on University Avenue at 1:03 a.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication reported on University Avenue at 1:11 a.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication arrest on Rose Street at 1:14 a.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication reported on Elizabeth Street at 1:29 a.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication reported from Greg Page Apartments at 1:36 a.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication reported on Columbia Avenue at 1:47 a.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication reported on Virginia Avenue at 2:25 a.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication reported on Woodland Avenue at 2:47 a.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication reported on Huguete Avenue at 2:56 a.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication reported on Woodland Avenue at 2:57 a.m.
- Aug. 19. DUI reported on Maxwell Street and Martin Luther King Drive at 4:19 a.m.
- Aug. 19. Alcohol intoxication reported on Linden Walk at 4:27 a.m.
- Aug. 20. Theft reported at the Plant Sciences Building at 1:12 p.m.
- Aug. 20. Theft of a laptop and cell phone reported from W.T. Young Library at 2:44 p.m.
- Aug. 20. Theft of an MP3 Player from the Plant Sciences Building at 5:44 p.m.
- Aug. 20. Theft of purse from car reported from UK Hospital at 7:10 p.m.
- Aug. 20. Drug and marijuana use reported from Haggin Hall at 9:06 p.m.
- Aug. 21. Drug and marijuana use reported from Haggin Hall at 2:09 a.m.
- Aug. 21. Alcohol intoxication arrest on Gazette Avenue at 2:16 a.m.
- Aug. 21. Alcohol intoxication arrest on Columbia Avenue at 3:52 a.m.
- Aug. 21. Theft of wallet reported from UK Hospital at 1:30 p.m.
- Aug. 21. Robbery reported from Hilltop Avenue at 11:01 p.m.
- Aug. 21. Fire reported from Smith Residence Hall at 11:03 p.m.

Compiled from reports at UK Police Department.
Compiled by staff writer Alice Haymond.
E-mail ahaymond@kykernel.com.

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Distribution date	Opponent	Game Date
August 27	Eastern Kentucky	September 1
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September 24	Florida Atlantic	September 29
September 24	LSU	October 13
October 15	Florida	October 20
October 15	Mississippi State	October 27
November 5	Tennessee	November 24

Distribution hours are from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Joe Craft Center Ticket Office, and from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Student Center Ticket Office. All single game tickets are \$5.00 each.

If available, guest tickets will be sold at regular price beginning each Wednesday morning follow a student ticket distribution.

Visit the ticket page at UKAthletics.com for complete student ticket information.



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FEATURES

Meghan Cain
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Phone: 257-1915
mcain@kyjournal.com

SAB continues comedy series tonight

By Emily Coovert
ecovort@kyjournal.com

If you laugh 'til you drop, at least you'll have something soft to land on.

Dan Ahdoot, a comedian who has appeared on Comedy Central's "Crank Yankers" and NBC's "Last Comic Standing," will be performing at the Memorial Hall amphitheater tonight at 7 in this school year's first installment of the Laughs on the Lawn series.

"He talked a lot about being a second-generation American," said political science sophomore Colby Khoshreza, the Student Activities Board's executive director for promotions. "He talks about his youth and growing up and adventures related to

that, and he talks some about his culture."

SAB, which organizes the Laughs on the Lawn series, found Ahdoot at the National Association for Campus Activities conference in

Nashville last February, Khoshreza said. Between 30 and 40 comedians performed at the convention, and Ahdoot was selected from this pool.

"He was one of the funniest," Khoshreza said. "His resume and his show were really impressive. It made us want to bring him to UK."

Ahdoot should be a little bit better than the comedians who perform at the weekly Comedy Caravan series on

Wednesday nights at the Cats Den in the Student Center, Khoshreza said.

"(Ahdoot) is a comedian that costs about four to five thousand dollars," Khoshreza said. "Some (comedians) are \$50,000, like Will Ferrell. Some are around \$500, like the ones at the Student Center."



Ahdoot

Laughs on the Lawn is run during the warmer months, particularly August, September, March and April, said integrated strategic communications and marketing senior

Lauren Baxter, SAB's director of pop culture. Ahdoot's performance tonight is the fifth out of six

events SAB is hosting this week for the "Back to School Bash," which Khoshreza sees as a way to show students what kinds of functions SAB will be sponsoring all school year.

"After two days of classes, people need time to wind down from the shock and have a few laughs," Khoshreza said. "Students can bring a picnic basket and friends and sit around picnic-style."

"This is a taste of different events that we want to have throughout the year," he said.

Baxter said she hopes to see a large turnout at Ahdoot's performance.

"Everyone loves to laugh," Baxter said. "It's a way to chill out, relax and have some fun at school."

ontap | For the week of AUG. 23 - AUG. 29

TONIGHT
Lance Whalen w/ Glenn Yoder and Mike Snowden.
8 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

No More Kings.
9:30 p.m., The Southgate House. Tickets cost \$8.

Thank You Jade w/ Caspian.
7:30 p.m., Headliners. Tickets cost \$10.

FRIDAY, Aug. 24
Sexual Disaster Quartet w/ Darnell Levine.
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Gardenhose w/ Morningstar.
9:30 p.m., The Southgate House. Tickets cost \$5.

The Screaming Kings.
9 p.m., Madison Theater. Tickets cost \$6.

SATURDAY, Aug. 25
Chico Fallini w/ The Bosch and The October.
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Lions w/ Viva La Foxx.
10 p.m., The Southgate House. Tickets are free.

Jonathan Edwards w/ George LaVigne.
8 p.m., The Madison Theater. Tickets cost \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

The Johnson Brothers.
9 p.m., Natasha's Cafe. Tickets cost \$10.

Silverstein w/ Comeback Kids, Jeny and Reading

Like a Writer.
8 p.m., Headliners. Tickets cost \$15.

Hilary Duff.
7:30 p.m., Louisville Palace. Tickets cost \$39.50 to \$49.50.

SUNDAY, Aug. 26
Mark Olson and Band w/ The Hides.
8 p.m., The Southgate House. Tickets cost \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Def Leppard.
7 p.m., Freedom Hall. Tickets cost \$50.

MONDAY, Aug. 27
Paleo w/ Neva Geoffrey, Bedtime and Noisycrane.
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Ashes to Azarel w/ Buried Beneath Me, Maude Flanders and Dominion.
7:15 p.m., Headliners. Tickets cost \$10.

TUESDAY, Aug. 28
De Novo Dahl w/ The Poor Richards.
9 p.m., The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Drive Like Maria w/ The Stated.
9 p.m., The Southgate House. Tickets cost \$5.

The Format.
6:30 p.m., Bogarts. Tickets cost \$15.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 29
Frontier Folk Nebraska w/ Ben "The Reminiscent" Cochran.
9 p.m., The Southgate House. Tickets are free.

COMPILED BY FEATURES EDITOR MEGHAN CAIN

MAKE YOUR

WEEKEND PLANS

1. Classy Keeneland replaces horses with cars

Keeneland will be showing off horsepower instead of horses this weekend at the annual Keeneland Concours d'Elegance. The event will start tonight with Bourbon Tours, followed by a sold-out gala tomorrow evening and the Keeneland Concours automobile show on Saturday. Over 100 rare and fine automobiles will grace the track; an automotive art gallery and unique shopping will also be available. For more information, call 422-3329 or check out the Keeneland Concours Web site (www.keeneland-concours.com).

2. Circus swings into Lexington

Travel under the big tent this weekend and see the 136th edition of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Rupp Arena will be transformed into a non-traditional circus full of high-speed action, brand-new technology and audience interaction. The circus will be swinging into Lexington tonight and will stay through Sunday. Today's and tomorrow's shows will be at 7 p.m.; Saturday's shows are at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday's show is at 5 p.m. Tickets range from \$12.50 to \$40. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster's Web site (www.ticketmaster.com). For more information, call 233-3535.



COURTESY OF RINGLING BROS.

3. Awareness raised through the arts

The fight to end violence against women is taking even more creative forms. V-Day, Until the Violence Stops: Kentucky, has been advocating for the anti-violence cause through spoken word, plays and film since Aug. 18 and will continue doing so through Sept. 1. Tonight, the Actors Guild of Lexington and LexArts is presenting "Necessary Targets" at the Black Box Theater at the Downtown Arts Center. "Necessary Targets" is a play written by Eve Ensler, author of the "Vagina Monologues," and it focuses on women and war. "Pieces of Me," an art exhibit featuring photography by women who have suffered from violence, will be showcased Friday at the Carnegie Hall from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A fashion show and gypsy slam will fill downtown Lexington with a variety of people on Saturday. The purpose of the fashion show is to promote a healthy body image; it will start at 3 p.m. at the UK Cooperative Extension Office. Finally, the gypsy slam — a poetry slam placing regional poets in competition with one another — starts at 6 p.m. and will continue until 10 p.m. in Victorian Square. For more information about the events, check out the V-Day Web site (www.utvsky.org).



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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.

Beatty hire good decision for UK, chief still needed

UK's appointment of outgoing Lexington Police Chief Anthony Beatty as the new assistant vice president for public safety is one of the best decisions the university administration has made recently.

In the midst of an ongoing search for a permanent chief of police at UK — whom Beatty will ultimately be in charge of at his new post — it was refreshing to see the administration unafraid to look within the Lexington community for a replacement for former public safety director Ken Clevidence.

The security challenges faced by UK are often unique, due to the distinct separation between the Lexington Police Department and UK's own police force, as well as the natural safety problems created by the presence of such a large university and the proximity to a downtown area. Beatty, having served in both departments, is in a position to better understand that dynamic and work with both organizations to secure the safety of UK students, faculty, and staff.

Furthermore, having served at all levels of a police force, Beatty should understand the dangers of micromanaging UK Police. While it is certainly important for the public safety director to play an integral part in the operation of the police force here on campus, Beatty's other duties — which include parking and transportation, environmental health, and safety and emergency management — should not be ignored and the day-to-day operation of the police department should be left to the chief.

Instead, Beatty and the UK administration should waste no time in finalizing their search for a new police chief. This November will mark

KERNEL EDITORIAL

a three-year absence of a permanent chief of police at UK, and it should serve as a reminder that the administration has taken far too long to fill the post.

In light of last year's events at Virginia Tech and the subsequent increase in concern for on-campus safety, UK must hire a police chief capable of being part of the dialogue necessary for UK to ensure a safe campus.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of UK's failure to fill the position is the apparent lack of willingness to look within its own organization. Just as Beatty's experience in Lexington and at UK will be invaluable, so too would the experience of a current member of UK Police be in making important decisions that could shape the manner in which the department responds to a crisis situation.

Further delay on the part of the administration only creates uncertainty within the department and makes it less effective at providing for the security of everyone at the university. It will be difficult enough for the university to accommodate the many security needs of its students, faculty and staff while we wait for Beatty to officially assume his new position in January. Delaying the hiring of a qualified police chief any longer than necessary is unacceptable.

This is the perfect chance for UK to firmly establish the necessary hierarchy in its police department to succeed in its mission of providing for the safety of every member of the UK community. We hope it doesn't go to waste.



Beatty



BRAD STURGEON, Kernel cartoonist

Groan all you want, but there are things to do in Lexington

Living in Lexington more or less full-time for my last three years at UK, I have often uttered — or heard



CARRIE BASS
Kernel columnist

from those around me — a familiar phrase: "I'm bored. There's nothing to do." While it is true that Lexington is a far cry from the booming metropolis of, say, Los Angeles or New York, Lexington does have its own bevy of entertainment opportunities. The best part of living in a moderately-sized city containing two universities, one community college, multiple professional schools and a handful of progressive corporations is that fun times can be had at little or no cost.

First, there are dozens of film series, lectures, forums and special events offered at UK for free or at a minimal cost. Information for these can usually be found online, in the newspaper you are currently holding or on one of the billions of fliers hanging around.

If boredom is still an issue, I advise students to venture out into the wide world of the Lexington

community. You may be surprised to learn that Lexington has quite a bit going on. Some of my personal favorites include the Farmers' Market (www.lexingtonfarmersmarket.com), Gallery Hop (www.lexarts.org/programs/galleryhop.php), and Critical Mass (www.critical-mass.org).

A new activity that I hope to enjoy this fall is a jazz series sponsored by the Lexington Public Library (www.lexpublib.org). All of these activities are environmentally conscious, locally run and completely free — and they include exercise. Aside from personal enjoyment and alleviation of one's social conscience, why participate in community activities? As Richard Florida argues in "The Rise of the Creative Class," the development of community is important to the economic health of any city.

Why? To the newest generation of professionals that will soon include many of us, studies show that a diverse and distinct community is a major attraction. Unlike previous generations, today's modern-day young professionals determine where businesses are located, not vice versa.

Think of the cities that are continually considered the most desirable places to live: Madison, Wis.; Portland, Ore.; Austin, Texas; and Charlotte, N.C. These are cities to

which Lexington is frequently compared; they are also cities with a plethora of locally organized events and community activities. Businesses and young job seekers are attracted to a community already invested in itself, and they in turn begin to contribute to the community, providing more sources of potential entertainment.

Though I am far from exempt from this sort of behavior, it seems crass to whine about a lack of "things to do" in Lexington when there are plenty of "things to do" that are ignored because they are too academic, too far to walk to, or too strange. Perhaps we all should be participating in more events, whether they are part of the UK community or the larger Lexington community, showing our support for the city where many of us will spend four or more years.

After all, the more involved we, as students, remain, the more likely Lexington will be to continue to provide activities we enjoy.

Maybe if students show that they are willing to leave their dormitories and apartments in search of "something to do," more possibilities for distractions from the rigors of academia will arise.

Carrie Bass is an art history senior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Students, region will benefit from WRFL expansion

UK's student-run radio station has gotten approval to expand its coverage area — a move that, if carried out, will be good for both the station and the state.

WRFL has finally won approval from the Federal Communications Commission to strengthen its signal so as to reach Frankfort and Georgetown, the Kernel reported yesterday. It's been six years since the station initially requested permission for the expansion.

The larger coverage area will be a boon to the station, giving it an opportunity to have a larger audience than ever. More importantly, Central Kentucky residents will gain exposure to a far more eclectic mix of music and politics than is normally available on the airwaves.

The process met further delays this spring when the American Family Association, a national religious organization that owns a radio network in Mt. Sterling, Ky., petitioned the FCC not to allow WRFL's signal boost.

The AFA claims that it was opposed to the federal rules governing frequency assignments, not to WRFL or UK specifically. One of the rules that the FCC uses to determine which stations can expand their coverage areas locally owned stations like WRFL at an advantage over those owned by a national organization like

the AFA.

"Our contention is that the rule is irrational," said AFA general counsel Patrick Vaughn in yesterday's Kernel.

Actually, the rule is quite sensible. In an age of increasing homogeneity on the airwaves, it's important to preserve local voices and musical diversity on the radio.

And regardless of the merits of the rule, the AFA should have found a different way to protest it than by hindering the expansion of a student-run station.

Like other campus organizations, WRFL suffers from staff rollover, where new leadership enters and exits each year. This complicates any delay in the expansion process. Without continuity on the staff, it is even more difficult for WRFL to see a multiyear expansion to completion than for other stations.

Furthermore, WRFL has a limited amount of time in which to raise the money necessary for this expansion, a task made increasingly difficult with each delay.

WRFL's optimistic and admirable attempt to expand its listener base should be appreciated by more established radio stations, and it is unfortunate that a student-run organization should suffer the results of a bureaucratic struggle that is beyond its control.

To get a better deal on oil, the U.S. should learn from China

People who have been keeping up with recent international news would have noticed a trend in the global oil market: China has been signing major energy deals all over the world.

China's success in the oil market can only be bad news for the world's leading oil-consuming country: the United States.

The demand for fuel in the United States is constantly increasing, and the oil reserve in the Middle East is not getting any bigger. The rule of supply and demand tells us that if the United States does not find other petroleum sources, oil prices will be growing sharply.

Why is China succeeding at securing all the oil deals while the United States stays largely stagnant? Beijing's strategy is to make present sacrifices for greater benefits in the long run. For instance, in 2005, China National Petroleum Corporation became the main shareholder of PetroKazakhstan. According to an article on BBC News, the \$4.18-billion deal remains China's largest purchase overseas. With a recently completed pipeline connect-

ing refineries in Kazakhstan to mainland China, Beijing is quickly reaping the benefits from the takeover.

The same article stated that many analysts believe China grossly overpaid for the PetroKazakhstan takeover in an effort to stifle the competition. Kazakhstan will soon become one of the world's top oil producers, and China wants to take full control over its neighbor's precious resource.

The strategy is working so far: After the takeover, China was able to secure a series of other major oil projects in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan isn't China's only new oil provider. The list of China's new and resurging oil-rich trading partners also includes Venezuela, Iran and a number of African countries. In an international market where many countries are hungry for the ever-decreasing petroleum reserves, China is gaining the upper hand.

In Africa, Beijing has a different approach. An article appropriately titled "Is China the new colonial power in Africa?" appeared in Taipei Times in 2006. Its author stated that in the early to mid-2000s, Chinese investors and state agencies spent billions on road building in Kenya, a hydroelectric dam in Ghana and a mobile phone network in Ethiopia. In return, China tapped into these countries' oil

reserve. In contrast, the Bush administration's political inflexibility and America's international legacy as a world bully are the main causes of its failure in acquiring new oil resources.

Two notable world leaders, Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez and Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, are ardent opponents of the Bush administration. China was quick to woo these two leaders and take advantage of their countries' vast petroleum reserves.

Venezuela has promised to increase its oil exportation to China drastically while reducing oil exportation to the United States; similarly, China secured involvement in large oil deals in Iran in recent years.

The United States is already suffering the consequences of losing the oil-grabbing battle. According to another article from BBC News, the U.S. trade deficit has been rising, thanks to the increasing spending on oil importation. In contrast, China's trade surplus is increasing because, while its oil importation is increasing greatly, its exportation of commercial goods is growing at an even higher rate. The country with the greatest increase in demand for Chinese goods? The United States.

Linsen Li is a history and journalism junior. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Weekly Poll Question

Do you expect new Student Government President Nick Phelps to do a better or worse job than last year's president, Jonah Brown?

Vote online at www.kykernel.com

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Chad Reese. 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

Volleyball not planning memorial for Alumni Gym

Craig Skinner saw puddles on the ground. That wouldn't have been surprising if Skinner, UK's head volleyball coach, was walking through a rain-storm.

But he wasn't even outside. He noticed the puddles during one of his team's practices



CHRIS DELOTELL
Kernel columnist

last season in sweltering Alumni Gym. "Melissa Popp was sweating through her shoes," Skinner said. "When she took a step, there was literally sweat

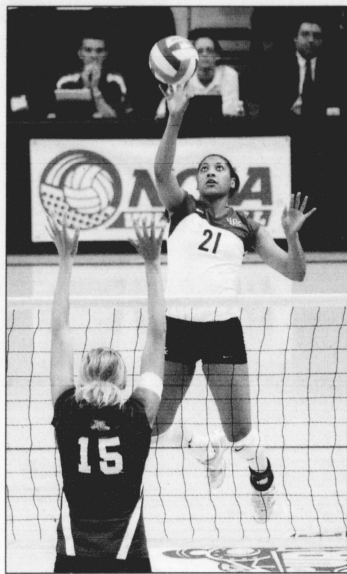
squirting out the side of her shoes and making puddles on the floor."

That's just one of the fond memories the UK volleyball team has of Alumni Gym, where the Cats practiced until this season. With men's and women's basketball moving into the new Craft Center, volleyball has taken up permanent residence in Memorial Coliseum. To say the coaches and players weren't sad to leave Alumni, which was built in 1924, would be an understatement, kind of like saying Lindsay Lohan likes alcohol.

"What will I miss about Alumni?" senior middle blocker Nicole Britenriker said. "How about nothing? But I can tell you what I won't miss. I won't miss 100-degree heat."

Take it from a reporter who, early in his career at the Kernel, spent many a day standing in the closet that calls itself Alumni Gym's "lobby" waiting to conduct interviews after practice. On hot days — days like yesterday and today — the gym would make simple tasks (like breathing) almost impossible. The fans positioned at both of the doors to the gym had the effect of garden hoses on a house fire.

But in addition to the heat,



Senior Nicole Britenriker gets ready to spike against Ohio on Nov. 30, 2006. Britenriker leads a talented UK front line.

the floor at Alumni — did we mention that it was built more than 80 years ago? — had no give, which was a grind on knees already made tender by the constant jumping required in volleyball.

But in what is probably the biggest residential upsizing in this state since Jethro and his clan struck oil and moved to California, the team now practices every day in Memorial Coliseum.

"(Memorial) is easier on our knees," sophomore setter Sarah

Rumely said. "Moving to Memorial will help prevent injuries."

Especially now that Memorial is the "new" Memorial. The floor has been replaced, and new lights were installed last year. It has been turned into an impressive volleyball facility.

And that's what has Skinner and his players most excited.

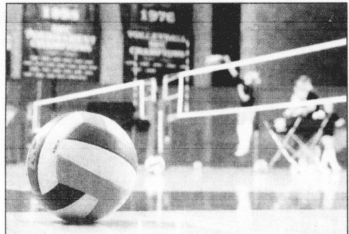
"We probably have the top play to play volleyball in the country," Rumely said of the refurbished Coliseum. "Recruits are really going to enjoy that."

In his three years as head coach, Skinner has proven he knows how to recruit. This year's freshman class is ranked as high as No. 8 in the country by one recruiting service. But now, he doesn't even have to take recruits to the dungeon where his team used to practice.

"If we get recruits on campus," Skinner said, "they're going to feel like this is a special place."

And they aren't going to feel puddles coming out of their shoes.

Kernel sports editor Chris DeLotell is an education senior. His column will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. E-mail cdelotell@kykernel.com.



The volleyball team practices yesterday afternoon in Memorial Coliseum. The new location is an upgrade compared to the outdated Alumni Gym.

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from page 5

players Britenriker, junior middle blocker Queen Nzenwa, and sophomore setter Sarah Rumely. Nzenwa thinks the new freshmen make the Cats' front line one of the deepest in the

SEC. "We are even more intimidating now that half of our freshmen are over 6 feet," Nzenwa said. "Height is a huge deal — just being up by the net, it makes the opponent think twice. Having the big blocks out there has the opponent altering their shots."

Altering opposing shots is what the Cats will need to do in

order to reach their goal of winning the SEC. With Florida, Arkansas, Alabama and LSU returning a majority of their line-ups, it won't be an easy road to a championship.

"They might be returning their players, but we are bringing a lot back too," Nzenwa said. "Winning the SEC will always be a goal for us."

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