

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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SG set to restrict online voting

By Blair Thomas
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Student Government will hold the final vote on major changes to its senate structure and election procedures at tonight's senate meeting.

At last week's meeting, when the bills passed their initial vote, senators presented opposing views on how future elections should be run as far as utilizing online voting.

"The last meeting surprised me a bit," Senate President Brent Burchett said. "We've been working on these proposals for a while, changing them and discussing them, but I thought the senators were all behind online elections."

If the second vote passes tonight, students will not be allowed to vote from any campus computer, a change from freshman elections this fall. Instead, the executive branch will set up designated electronic polling locations that will be approved by the full senate.

Sen. Jesse Parrish and Sen. Blake Burnett are opposed to online elections because they said it takes away privacy privileges of the voter.

"Students have expressed to me their discomfort in elections that are held online," Parrish said at the senate meeting on Jan. 24. "It does away with a person's right to a private ballot, and it is my opinion that one student who is forced by a group of their peers to vote one way is enough to reevaluate our procedures."

Ellen Boniak, an undeclared freshman, felt the pressure from her roommate and friends to vote for a candidate in the Freshman Elections in October.

"My roommate wanted me to vote for her sorority sister," Boniak said. "She sat right behind me at my computer and watched me vote. I felt like I had to vote for who my roommate wanted me to, even though I didn't know anything about her friend."

Freshman Elections were held online but had a smaller turnout than previous years.

"We've really been forced to look at ourselves and evaluate how the campus views Student Government," Burchett said. "The reality is, it's hard to get students interested. They don't like our posters, they don't like us bugging them to go vote. These changes are about addressing what the students want."

In attempt to address what students want, an amendment to expand the number of seats in the senate also has a second vote tonight.

If passed, the amendment will increase the total number of senators by five, adding one senator to both the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Law, and three senators to the Graduate School.

"The more diverse we become, the better we will represent the students and the better we will become as an organization," said Sen. Tyler Montell.

SG will also vote on an amendment that would restructure their joint and standing committees tonight.

The majority of senators tabled this legislation on Jan. 24 because the meeting ran long.

"This is an issue that is very important and I think deserves our full attention," Burchett said. "That was something we just couldn't give by the end of last meeting."

Sen. Josh Odoi wrote the amendment that would rename existing SG committees and add

See **SG** on page 10

WEATHER OR NOT, SCHOOL IS IN



Nathan Spitz, an environmental chemistry sophomore, snowboards off a mound, down a hill outside of the W.T. Young last night. Students used trash bags, inner tubes and a kayak as sleds. **BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF**

Administrators: Snow not enough to keep students out of class

By Sean Rose
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Students crossing their fingers for that most holy of hollyes — the college snow day — will have to keep praying for worse weather.

"Based on the forecast information we have at this time, it is unlikely UK will close for inclement weather," Emergency Management Director Christy Giles told the Kernel in an e-mail. "UK has an inclement weather policy; however there are no pre-set conditions that would dictate automatic closure of the University."

Frank Butler, executive vice president of finance and administration, makes the final call to cancel class after consulting with the Emergency Management Department and other senior administrators.

The last time UK cancelled class was February 2003, when the entire city shut down in the midst of ice storms.

"It's very, very rare for the institution to shut down," said UK spokesman Jay Blanton.

There are many reasons UK sees few snow days, Blanton said, "not the least of which is there's a hospital that can't shut down. A large number of people are already living on campus in dorms."

Cafeterias and other services have to remain open on snow days as well, Blanton added.

"All those facilities have to remain open," he said. "If those functions are open the institution stays open."

Jack Applegate, director of the physical plant division, said UK brings in early shifts of ground-crews and keeps some overtime to keep walkways clear of snow and ice.

"It's just a continual process," Applegate said. "We're handling it fairly easy right now."

"The main priority is the

See **Snow** on page 10



Russell Spears, a building operator, shovels snow off the sidewalk behind the Grehan Journalism Building yesterday afternoon. **ELLIOTT HESS | STAFF**

Journalist alums share D.C. stories

By Ed Matthews
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Some journalism alums will experience a homecoming of sorts tonight to discuss their careers — all involving time in D.C. — and the changing face of their field.

The fifth annual Richard Wilson Journalism Alumni Symposium will be held today at 5 p.m. in the W.T. Young Library auditorium.

"Every year we try and invite alumni to return to campus and talk to current students about journalism and their careers," said assistant journalism professor and event organizer Mike Farrell.

The event was started by Richard Wilson, a UK journalism hall of fame



West



Neikirk

member and former education reporter for the Louisville Courier-Journal, in 2002 while he was acting as interim director of the school of journalism and telecommunications. The alumni association later decided to name the symposium in his honor.

This year's symposium brings back UK journalism graduates Steve Ivey, Ter-

ry Hunt, Bill Neikirk and Carl West. Ivey graduated in 2005 and now works as a reporter for The Anniston Star in Alabama.

Hunt, a 1967 graduate, is the chief White House correspondent for the Associated Press.

Neikirk, who graduated in 1960, is now acting as the chief Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune.

West, a 1966 graduate, is now the editor of The State Journal in Frankfort.

Susan Straub, a 1977 graduate who now works as communications director for Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry, will serve as moderator.

This year's symposium, which has

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Town hall meeting looks to raise AIDS awareness

By Jenisha Watts
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Annette Owens vividly and painfully remembers the day the doctor told her she had HIV.

"I found out August of 1994," Owens said. "I went to the doctor to get my results and he said, 'Ms. Brooks you are HIV-positive.'"

Owens collapsed after hearing the news.

"I just broke down and cried, the doctor cried with me," she said. "He allowed me to ask any questions that I may have and I knew very little about HIV/AIDS."

Owens, a native of Carlisle, serves as a community advocate for HIV/AIDS. She will be speaking as part of a town meeting for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day at Shiloh Baptist Church tonight from 6 to 7:30.

The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, along with AIDS Volunteers Inc. and the Bluegrass Care Clinic, is hosting the meeting to discuss HIV/AIDS in the black community.

There will be a panel of eight people speaking about HIV/AIDS. The event is free and open to the public.

Owens feels the awareness of HIV/AIDS is lacking in the African-American community. "We are starting the 26th year of this disease ... and people still think it's a gay, white men's disease in the African-American community."

"All those facilities have to remain open," he said. "If those functions are open the institution stays open."

Jack Applegate, director of the physical plant division, said UK brings in early shifts of ground-crews and keeps some overtime to keep walkways clear of snow and ice.

"It's just a continual process," Applegate said. "We're handling it fairly easy right now."

"The main priority is the spread the message in the black community."

"My goal is to educate people and make them upset," he said. "That's the only way to get people to do something about it."

Kevin Hall, communications officer for the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, also agreed with the importance of education.

"I want to educate the community (to) keep HIV/AIDS in people's mind," he said. "It's not something that's going away, it's something that we need to continue to be educated about."

Hall also said the meeting is for everyone — not just African-Americans.

"In Fayette (county) African-Americans make up 30 percent of the 618 AIDS cases that have been reported since 1982," he said. "We want people from all backgrounds to come."

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Girls Gone Wild sparks Women's Place protest

By Alice Haymond
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Carrying signs declaring, "I'm not here for your entertainment" and "we speak for those unheard," Women's Place members marched around campus yesterday, challenging the presence of Girls Gone Wild near UK.

Participants of the Women's Place protest said they want to make people more aware of the reality of violence and disrespect that many women experience.

"The best way to deal with it is education," said sociology sophomore Kristen Lambert. "If the administration's not going to do it, we will."

Protesters said Girls Gone Wild was on campus for a short time but Capt. Kevin Franklin of UK Police said he never saw their presence.

He said he received a call from the Women's Place around 10 a.m. about Girls Gone Wild.

"I told them we would ask them to leave if they showed up," Franklin said. "None of our people ever saw them."

Girls Gone Wild was in Lexington yesterday. Franklin said he saw their van parked on Broadway Avenue, but not on UK's campus, where it would not have a permit to be.

The Women's Place members walked from Administration Drive through Central Campus, in front

of Maxwell Place, up and down Rose Street, ending in front of the Patterson Office Tower.

Lambert said the protest was about more than speaking out against Girls Gone Wild, which they said promoted disrespect toward women.

"It's really empowering to go out and talk to people, to let them know it's not OK that one of three of us is going to be assaulted," Lambert said.

This semester, 17 women on campus have come to the Women's Place and reported violence. Women's Place director Dorothy Edwards said.

"It's kind of bittersweet," said Krista King, an English and American studies senior. "You don't realize."

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UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP



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 a 7 - For this assignment, you're best with a partner who's totally willing to share. It wouldn't hurt one bit if he or she is also filthy rich.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - Build up your stash of food and supplies and whatever else you might need. As you well know, it feels wonderful to be prepared for anything.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - Through a loved one, you can accomplish a goal you've previously found elusive. He or she can

see it from a slightly different angle.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 5 - The sedentary feeling is strong, perhaps overpowering. Don't feel guilty, and don't fight it. Catch up on your reading and answer your mail.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 7 - Discuss your new ideas with a person who understands. Find out what will work and what won't before you put your plans into action.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is an 8 - The work's intense, but it's kind of fun. Imagination is required. You're paid well for your efforts, too. Get something nice for your family.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is an 8 - Best not to talk too much about what you've been doing. You're not finished yet. Wait until you've got a result you want to publicize.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - A difficult assignment actually pays quite well. Don't forget to

gather an extra bonus for being so good.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - You're having more fun now, if you've done as instructed. That's never easy for you. Give it another try.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - The impulse to say something piercingly critical will soon abate. It won't go away completely, but you should be able to stifle.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - A person you may have forgotten all about comes back into your life. He or she remembers you fondly and many adventures begin.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - The wealth you're accruing now is almost all behind the scenes. You won't be able to spend it for years; you're planting a money garden.

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Katie's comeback plan

In Paris for fashion Week, 28-year-old Katie Holmes lunched on a fresh truffle salad alongside BFF Victoria Beckham on Jan. 23 at luxe restaurant Le Voltaire. "She has an inner glow," manager Antonie Picot told Us afterward. "She's a beautiful woman — stunning." After a meal punctuated with excited gossip ("They were laughing and making sure no one else could hear them," says Picot), the friends parted ways. Following a wardrobe change at her almost \$4,000-a-night suite at the George V hotel, Holmes was off on a shopping expedition for her nearly 10-month-old daughter, Suri, who was back home in the United States. At baby couture store Baghere, she picked out more than \$11,000 worth of dresses, some silk in various sizes. Store employee Annie Houplain tells Us, "Babies grow out of their clothes so quickly; Katie wanted Suri to be able to enjoy them for as long as possible."

And Holmes, more than ever, may be aware of the importance of capitalizing on the moment. With the birth of Suri and her whirlwind wedding to Tom Cruise, 44, behind her, Holmes is realizing that private jets and five-figure shopping sprees won't keep her once-promising career afloat. A January 26 story in The Wall Street Journal questioned the star's bankability (her Q Score shows that, over two years, she has become nearly twice as recognizable — but less likable). The article also broke the news that she would not be reprising her

district-attorney role in The Dark Knight, the sequel to the 2005 film Batman Begins. (A rep for Holmes blames scheduling conflicts and tells Us, "Katie is in the process of negotiating her next movie.") And on January 26, Holmes was spotted taking meetings at the high-powered Creative Artists Agency — which reps her husband — to map out a new career plan, according to the Journal. Holmes herself reportedly told friends, "I'm resuming my movie career once our daughter reaches her first birthday."

Forget-me-not

As that April milestone approaches, Holmes is considering a part in the comedy Mad Money, which begins filming in April. It's low-budget, but other talents who are likely to do the film are Queen Latifah, Diane Keaton and director Callie Khouri, who wrote Thelma & Louise. A Holmes source adds that the actress is holding out for the right role. "Katie is very independent," the insider tells Us. "She really wants to choose a character that she hasn't done before."

Besides, just because Holmes hasn't been on a film set doesn't mean she has ignored her international celebrity pals (see "TomKat's Power Clique," right). For example, David and Victoria Beckham are scheduled to be their guests in Miami on Feb. 4 for an invitation-only Super Bowl party at the Boost Mobile Villa presented by radio station 790 The Ticket.

last movie. Thank You for Smoking, was released in March 2006 — when she was eight months pregnant. Speculation has swirled about the controlling nature of Cruise — as well as his involvement with the controversial Church of Scientology — and whether that has impacted his wife's options, but a source close to the actress tells Us, "Tom is incredibly supportive. He will support any decision she makes regarding her career." One intriguing possibility: Holmes is considering a book deal (which could be anything from a tell-all to a children's book), an industry source tells Us.

Good Life

Still, Holmes, unlike other actresses on the rise, has the leisure to pick and choose her next project and not struggle from paycheck to paycheck. The role in the Batman sequel would have earned her a reported payday of \$1 million to \$2 million — but, hey, her husband earned an estimated \$67 million last year.

And Holmes has clearly mastered the role of high-profile celebrity wife. She and Cruise have cultivated an A-list circle of international celebrity pals (see "TomKat's Power Clique," right). For example, David and Victoria Beckham are scheduled to be their guests in Miami on Feb. 4 for an invitation-only Super Bowl party at the Boost Mobile Villa presented by radio station 790 The Ticket.

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Beatnik Ball finds 'new sound' in student

By Ellie Fairbanks
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Josh Rupp was looking for a sound he hadn't heard on campus before.

"We found some guys who play really chilled out music," said Rupp, director of concerts for the Student Activities Board. "We wanted to find something like this that would be something totally new to UK."

Rupp thinks he found just that.

This "totally new" sound will come from Tyrone Wells, a soul and pop singer from Spokane, Wash and UK freshman Wes Meek.

Rupp found Meek, who will open the show, on MySpace when he was looking for acts that might compliment Wells.

"I was looking for a regional opening act on MySpace," Rupp said. "I just kind of found Wes and saw that he went to UK and had a sound that fit the feeling of the show."

When Meek agreed to be the opening act for Wells, he was

excited but didn't realize how big of a deal SAB's Beatnik Ball actually is, he said.

"I just kind of agreed (after Rupp contacted him via e-mail)," Meek said. "I'm really stoked, but I didn't know how big of a production this all is."

Meek said his acoustic music is not the typical "coffee shop" sound that people might be used to. He said it was a soulful, pop-rock feel and he considers himself the musical child of James Taylor and Stevie Wonder.

"It's just me putting everything I've got into my music," Meek said. "Coffee-shop music tends to have a sappy feeling to it, and even though I might not think that's what I sound like, I'm sure some of my songs are sappy."

Wells and his bandmates also consider his sound to be unique.

"We play a different sound depending on what we're feeling at the time," said Mark Chipello, tour manager and drummer for Wells. "Sometimes

it's a little more mellow when it's acoustic, but it gets pretty jazzed up when we're all hooked up."

While Wells and Chipello have been touring together for three years, Meek has only been performing on his own for about a year, he said. He has been in a number of different bands, but said he's found his niche as a solo artist.

"I've been in a lot of bands, but it just never works out because I'm so crazy about how things should be done," Meek said.

"It's just me putting everything I've got into my music," Meek said. "Coffee-shop music tends to have a sappy feeling to it, and even though I might not think that's what I sound like, I'm sure some of my songs are sappy."

Meek writes and plays all original music, he said. He has about 13 songs, but he won't play them all tonight.

"I have a bunch of different songs," Meek said. "But if I run out of stuff to play, I'll just make something up. If it sounds like I'm mumbling toward the end, you'll know that I'm just coming up with the song."

Meek's girlfriend, Christina Childs, also a freshman at UK, will play piano and sing with him during the opening act.

Meek credits Childs with inspiring him to play live music.

"My girlfriend told me she thought I was really good, and I should give it a try, so I did," Meek said.

Meek is looking forward to the opportunity to play his songs on campus.

"I just love playing shows and performing live," Meek said. "I play my music better in front of people. It's such an adrenaline rush and so much fun to do."

If you go

What: SAB's Beatnik Ball featuring Tyrone Wells and Wes Meek

When: Tonight, 8

Where: Worsham Theatre in the Student Center

Tickets: Free and open to the public

Bambi vs. Godzilla: On the nature, purpose and practice of the movie business

By Susan Dunne
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This is the month when everyone who is anyone in Hollywood gathers around the campfire that is the Oscars to hear glowing stories about themselves and bask in the toasty warmth of the world they inhabit.

What a perfect time for David Mamet to come along and slap them all down.

An actor at the Oscars, Mamet writes, "agrees to fawn and pant in return for a pat on the head. This, of course, is the reason for the Oscars' success as entertainment: The audience gets to see their oppressors brought low."

This and other deeply cynical words of movieland wisdom can be found in Mamet's "Bambi vs. Godzilla: On the Nature, Purpose and Practice of the Movie Business."

Mamet, a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright (for "Glengarry Glen Ross") and

Tony and Oscar nominee, has published 43 essays, many of them reprinted or rewritten from his column in Britain's The Guardian newspaper. They offer a running commentary on the movie business from the inside, with anger but no artifice.

Mamet expresses great fondness for directors, writers and, especially, the unheralded crew, who only want to work together to do their best. But he admits that Hollywood is largely a hopeless sinkhole of conform-or-die. In this, Mamet's biting dismissiveness can be very funny.

In spite of all this, one thing is clear: When it comes to well-made movies, Mamet is a man in love. He understands them with the passion of not just a writer, director and insider but of a lifelong connoisseur. (This makes his contempt for critics seem hypocritical; he is one himself, whether or not he draws a paycheck doing it.) His fandom isn't snobbish, either; he

calls "Galaxy Quest" a "perfect" film.

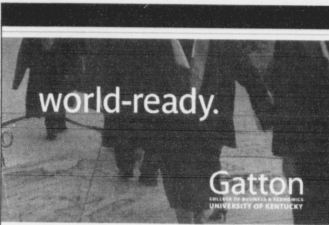
This is the chief irony of this book. Development executives and producers really should read this book and learn from it, but Mamet's piercing intelligence probably will alienate those who make a lot of money by dumbing things down. The book will find its most ardent readers outside of the industry, people who like engaging their brains but who are in no position to do anything but shake their heads and sigh.

Even those readers, however, might be challenged by some of Mamet's more abstruse wanderings, such as: "The absence of affront at the violation of the aesthetic distance may be employed as a diagnostic tool indicating that the nature of the entertainment is not, essentially, dramatic." Writing like this doesn't reach out and embrace readers but instead makes them step back and ask — as a Mamet character might say — "what the f — ?"

ALCOHOL RESEARCH STUDIES AT UK

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Q&A with UK's Budo Karate Club

Spotlight on President Ross Cook

By Meghan Cain
mcain@kykernel.com

Throughout the year, the Kernel is spotlighting various campus leaders. This week we are featuring Ross Cook, leader of UK's Budo Karate Club. Cook is a biology senior.

Q. What is the Budo Karate Club?

A. We're actually practitioners of "shotokan" karate. Budo is an objective term reflecting a state of mind. Our definition is discipline and dedication to acts that are considered just and honorable.

Q. What kind of acts are considered "just and honorable?"

A. Not picking on anyone or abusing the abilities we have gained from karate. It is about so much more than just physical strength. There is a mindset that is developed. It can help you at work or when you are studying or anything like that.

Q. How long has the Budo Karate Club been at UK?

A. There has been a karate club for a while, but it has been with the affiliation it is with now for two years. Since then we have just been trying to get our name out.

The organization we are affiliated with is TSKA—Traditional Shotokan Karate Association. It is based in Owensboro, and is run by a man named Allen Renfrow. It is a young organization with most people involved under 30. We are also affiliated with other dojos in Cincinnati.

Q. As president of this organization, what are your goals?

A. I want to let many people know about this club. It is a practical, useful form of self-defense. It also increases strength, flexibility and coordination. With all the talk of campus safety, it should be something that is advertised more. More people should take part.

Q. How did you become president?

A. Last year I was secretary and at the beginning of the year they were looking for a new president. I had a lot of ideas on how to promote and bring people in. So the whole organization voted, and I was elected.

Q. Who can participate in this club?

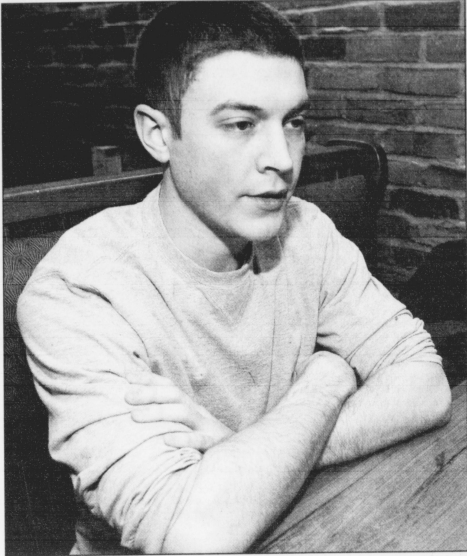
A. We encourage anyone, with or without experience, to join. Those that don't know learn the most. You don't have to be super athletic. Our head instructor is Devin Foster, and he goes to Eastern. He teaches beginners. You can never reach a point where you can have everything perfect. You always keep learning. The best way of learning something is by teaching it, so we encourage inexperienced newcomers.

Q. What type of equipment or attire must an interested person bring?

A. The attire we recommend is just athletic shorts and t-shirts. We practice in white "gis" and bare feet. It really does nothing to our feet except for the occasional blister. When we spar we do have hand guards, but there is a minimum amount of contact when you spar.

Q. Do people have to pay to be in the club?

A. You can come to check it out and see if you want to join for free. Membership is \$100 for a semester or \$30 a month for those not sure if they want to commit. But compared to other places, it is very reasonable.



Ross Cook, a biology senior, is serving his first year as president of UK's Budo Karate Club. He encourages student to attend classes and learn about the many physical and spiritual benefits.

able.

Q. What do you do at the meetings?

A. We have broken down the days. On Mondays we work on techniques like "kata" and stepping. On Wednesdays we work on conditioning, and we learn one technique and continue practicing to make it better. On Fridays we apply what we worked on Wednesdays.

Q. How many members are there?

A. There are about six active members, and we just had two new guys join this year.

Q. How does this compare to last year?

A. It is about the same. We lost some people from last year because of scheduling and classes. But we have usually kept about six people the two years I have been in.

Q. How many girls are in the club?

A. At the moment it is all guys. We did have two girls, and they would always go and compete against other girls. They always would win. We would love to have more girls take part.

Q. Do you guys participate in tournaments?

A. Typically we participate in three tournaments. One is in Owensboro, and it is the most important because it is run by our organization. There is also one around October or November where we compete at Purdue. We compete against their team and against other universities in Chicago and across the Indiana and Ohio areas. We also compete in a world championship in Las Vegas.

We have done really well. Last year's world championship we sent two members and they both received medals. The year before that we sent someone, and he won a medal too.

Q. How does the medal system work?

A. It is based on two events. There is "kata," which is a detailed pattern of strikes and blocks judged on detail and form. Medals are awarded to the top three in each division. The other part is "kumite," which is another name for sparring. They are the actual fighting matches and are two minutes. You have to score two points on your opponent. Depending on your division, there are

certain techniques you can't use. In the black belt division you can even make contact with the face. But no matter what category, you cannot strike someone in the knee, kidneys or elbow them anywhere. Contact is very minimal though. I have never been to a tournament where someone was injured horribly. The most I have seen is a broken toe or finger.

Q. Describe what it is like to participate in a tournament.

A. I always enjoyed the "kata" part the most because it is a spiritual thing. You get to display what you have learned, and you are very much on your own. It is just you and your art out there. The sparring part is a little different. I like the application part of it, but it is very nerve-racking. There is an extra level of excitement when you know you are about to show what you know to another person, and you get to see how well you match up.

Q. How did you start karate and how long have you been doing it?

A. I first got interested about two and half years ago in my kinesiology class. Most of our members haven't been doing it that long. The instructor has been doing it for four or five years. Most of the class is composed of guys who have just taken it in the past two years and really enjoyed it.

Q. What is the spiritual part of karate?

A. When you do practice and really focus, you lose your mind. Not in the sense of going crazy, but all the cares and stresses go away. You learn to focus and block things out that aren't important while in the dance studio training.

Q. How has karate helped you in other aspects of your life?

A. It is a great way of relieving stress. If you have a bad test or a bad day all-around, you can go somewhere and work it out. It has also been helpful because it has given me more confidence. In personal situations, I am more proud of who I am. I don't have to prove anything to anyone.

Q. Why is it important that UK has a Budo karate team?

A. It is important to the student body. Anybody who joins learns practical self-defense, builds confidence and becomes healthier.



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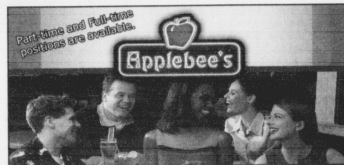
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APPLICATION FOR STUDENT SPEAKER AT THE 2007 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

May 6, 2007
The 2007 University of Kentucky Commencement will again feature an outstanding graduating senior who will deliver a 4-6 minute address at the Commencement Ceremony. Applications from interested students will be reviewed by the Commencement Committee and accepted through March 16, 2007.

QUALIFICATIONS

- The applicant must be receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky at the May Commencement exercises.
- The applicant must have significantly contributed to the University through campus and/or community activities and through his or her chosen field of study.
- The applicant must show evidence of demonstrated public speaking ability and be willing to present his/her address to the Commencement Speaker Selection Committee.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

- A resume or other typed list of activities, work experience, and accomplishments achieved during your study at the University of Kentucky that illustrate your contributions to the University. A summary of speaking ability and/or experience may also be included.
- A summary of no more than three (3) typed, double-spaced pages of your proposed speech, if given the opportunity to address the Class of 2007.
- Completed information sheet.

Please return the requested information via campus mail or fax to: Todd R. Cheever, MD, MN-104, Office of Student Affairs, College of Medicine, 0298, fax (859) 323-2076. Dr. Cheever's phone number is (859) 323-8261.

You may also email your application materials to Dr. Cheever at tbchee0@uky.edu as long as you include an original signature on the application form.

The Committee may contact any applicant for an interview prior to making the final selection.

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Tape shows U.S. pilots' dismay for 2003 strike on British convoy

By Janet Stohart
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON — American pilots can be heard cursing and weeping after finding out they just fired on a British convoy in southern Iraq at the beginning of the U.S. invasion, according to cockpit video footage leaked to a British tabloid.

Shortly after the Sun newspaper posted the video on its Web site Tuesday, the U.S. government relented on its refusal to allow the video to be shown in a British court. The 2003 strike near Basra killed a British soldier and wounded several others.

"I'm going to be sick," one pilot can be heard saying after he was informed of his mistake. "Did you hear?"

"Yeah, this sucks," says another pilot.

"We're in jail, dude," the first pilot says.

The Pentagon had given the 15-minute cockpit video to British authorities as part of a military inquiry, but refused to allow it to be shown in the civil proceedings conducted by British coroner, Andrew Walker, who is investigating the death of the British soldier, Lance Cpl. Matty Hull.

Walker suspended the inquest last week, declaring he would only continue when he could show the film to the Hull family.

The friendly fire strike of March 28, 2003 was carried out

by an A-10 "warhog" plane flying a sortie with a second A-10 near Basra in Southern Iraq.

Five days earlier, A-10s had fired on a company of Marines near Nasirya, killing 18 and wounding 17 others. The anti-tank aircraft, which are equipped with armor-piercing munitions, are used primarily to support ground troops.

The dramatic sequence shows the cockpit view of the targets from the U.S. plane flying at about 12,000 feet. The radio exchange between pilots and ground controllers centers on what appear to be flatbed trucks. Pilots and controllers attempt to identify if they are enemy or friendly.

Although the pilots at first talk of "orange panels" carried by allied vehicles to identify them as "friendlies," ground staff at first assure them there are no allied troops or vehicles in the immediate area. "You are well clear of friendlies," says ground controller identified as Manila Hotel.

The pilots' decision to strike comes after they apparently conclude that the orange panels are rocket launchers atop flatbed trucks.

As the aircraft are returning to base, one of the pilots tells the other: "That thing with orange panels is going to screw us. They look like orange rockets."

The U.S. authorization to show the video came with the proviso that news media be excluded from the viewing, and

that a Defense Ministry official should be present, the BBC reported.

Susan Hull, Lance Cpl. orporal Hull's widow, said in a statement Tuesday that "The inquest is my one and only chance to hear how and why Matty died," she said.

"I would have preferred to hear the evidence from the U.S. pilots themselves. However, they cannot be compelled to come and they have not come voluntarily."

"The video is therefore vital evidence and must be shown. I do not relish hearing it in open court but after years of being told that it did not exist or was secret I feel that it was right not to give up hope."

The family initially had been told no such video existed, according to news reports, but by Tuesday the British Ministry of Defense Web site stated that: "This recording is the property of the United States government and the (ministry) does not have the right to release it without their permission."

The ministry said that "some classified material" had been withheld, but "there has never been any intention to deliberately deceive or mislead Lance Cpl. of Horse Hull's family."

State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack said Tuesday that the Pentagon and British authorities had determined the strike was "a terrible, terrible accident."

'New FEMA' emerges with Bush's 2008 budget

By Stephen Barr
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — On paper, the coming year should be turnaround time for FEMA.

President Bush's fiscal 2008 budget restructuring funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, giving the agency's head, R. David Paulison, his first opportunity to lay claim to money that can be used to restore FEMA's luster and professionalism.

Inside the agency, Paulison has urged his executives to look to the future and learn from what went wrong with the federal response to Hurricane Katrina, which devastated Gulf Coast states in 2005.

In public appearances, Paulison describes FEMA as a partner with states and localities when it comes to planning for and responding to natural disasters. He also makes the pitch that FEMA is on the rebound.

After touring storm-damaged central Florida Saturday, Paulison assured state officials that tractor-trailers loaded with water, meals, tarps and generators were on their way. The relief supplies, coming a day after storms devastated four counties, were a sign of "the new FEMA," he said.

If money and staffing come together as Paulison hopes, the new FEMA will put an end to what the Government Accountability Office calls "considerable flux" and "near-constant organizational change" at FEMA since 2001.

Perhaps the biggest change came in 2003, when FEMA was folded into the new Department of Homeland Security. From 2003 through 2005, programs and millions of dollars moved in and out of FEMA, disrupting operations and creating un-

certainty, the GAO said in a report released last month.

FEMA also was forced to pay "a disproportionate amount" to help finance the start-up costs of the new department, leaving FEMA with less money for its operating expenses, the GAO found.

After Katrina exposed leadership and management problems in FEMA, Congress conducted hearings and investigations that led to passage of the 2006 Post-Katrina Emergency Reform Act. The law transferred several offices from the department into FEMA, effective at the end of March.

The evolving FEMA "is very much the subject of attention in our budget," Michael Chertoff, secretary of homeland security, said Monday in discussing the administration's fiscal 2008 priorities.

The president will request \$100 million for staffing, equipment, supplies and technology for the new FEMA initiative, Chertoff said. About \$48 million will be used to convert FEMA's on-call response and recovery employees, who hold temporary positions, into full-time agency employees, Chertoff said.

That change would add about 1,000 employees to FEMA's full-time staff, which currently numbers about 2,200, agency spokesman Aaron T. Walker said. FEMA also will rely on about 3,240 employees who are paid from the disaster relief fund to work in recovery and relief efforts.

To help create the new FEMA, Paulison commissioned 18 studies aimed at strengthening the agency's business and support systems, such as personnel, finance, procurement and technology. The 18 assessments should be completed by April, and Walker said funding has been set aside to pay for any recommended changes in operations.

Iranian officials accuse U.S. of role in diplomat's kidnapping

By Joshua Partlow and Ernesto Londoño
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iranian officials in Iraq on Tuesday accused U.S. forces of collaborating with Iraqi soldiers in what they described as the kidnapping of an Iranian diplomat in downtown Baghdad.

Four Iraqis allegedly involved in the kidnapping Sunday evening of diplomat Jalal Sarafi were arrested and interrogated by Iraqi police, according to two Iranian officials in Baghdad. The detained Iraqis, who wore military uniforms and carried military identification cards, were "not under the Ministry of Defense control, they were directly connected to the American control," said an official at the Iranian Embassy who spoke on condition of anonymity.

U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Christopher Garver said Tuesday that the military was not involved in the reported abduction, and that he was not aware of any involvement by Iraqi forces.

Iraqi officials declined to comment Tuesday on the Iranian charges, but Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari scheduled a press conference for Wednesday

where he was expected to discuss the issue.

The Iranian officials condemned the disappearance of Sarafi, whom they identified as a second secretary in the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, and said his abduction was part of the Bush administration's effort to counter Iranian influence in Iraq.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran considers it a responsibility of U.S. forces in Iraq to protect members of the diplomatic community, including Iranian diplomats, and will hold them responsible for obtaining the release of the abducted Iranian diplomat," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad-Ali Hosseini told the Islamic Republic News Agency.

Sarafi has worked at the embassy for two years, and has a wife and children living in Iran, said Abbas Itri, the embassy's office manager. At the time of the apparent abduction, which was first reported by the New York Times, Sarafi was traveling with two colleagues, the Iranian officials said. They said Sarafi's colleagues escaped and notified police and that police and the abductors exchanged gunfire during a brief clash.

Defense and Interior Min-

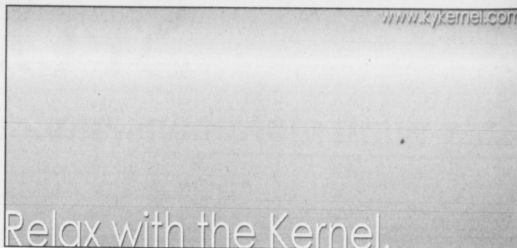
istry officials are searching for Sarafi, said Brig. Abdul Khaliq Karim, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry.

U.S. officials have accused Iran of exacerbating tensions in Iraq by providing funding, sophisticated explosives and training to Shiite militias. President Bush last fall secretly authorized the killing or capturing of Iranian intelligence operatives or Revolutionary Guard members operating in Iraq. U.S. officials last month detained five Iranians at a liaison office that provided consular services in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil. Iraqi officials said the men were in the process of being certified as diplomats.

In December, U.S. forces detained five Iranians in two separate raids in Baghdad.

Also Tuesday, the U.S. military disclosed the death of two American soldiers. A Multi-National Division soldier was killed Tuesday after "insurgents targeted a security post," in southwest Baghdad, according to a statement. A Marine was killed Monday in al-Anbar province "from wounds sustained due to enemy action," the military said in a statement. Their names will be released after relatives have been notified.

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Application Deadline: February 9, 2007 (applications should be submitted to the office of eUreKa!, 115 Bowman Hall).

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SPORTS

Jonathan Smith
Sports Editor
Phone: 257-1915
E-mail: jsmith@kykernel.com

Cats want more consistency on D

By J.D. Williams
jwilliams@kykernel.com

When junior guard Ramel Bradley scored an easy layup off a steal to put UK ahead against Arkansas Saturday, it was what Tubby Smith expected from his team — turning defense into offense.

What happened on the next play was not. A breakdown on defense caused a 17-4 run that put the Razorbacks ahead going into halftime. The Cats (17-5, 6-2 Southeastern Conference) rallied to win the game, but having consistent effort on defense throughout the entire game has been the team's focal point as it heads into the second half of its SEC schedule.

"We have to make conscious effort to sit down and guard guys," Smith said. "We're letting guys split us with the dribble and getting to the inside."

When UK's defense is smothering the ball, it's tough for opposing offenses to score. The Cats rank first in field-goal defense in the SEC, giving up a stingy 38.3 percent. UK's overall defense is third to Florida and LSU, allowing 63.9 points per game.

The Cats' only setbacks in the conference play have been

the back-to-back losses to Vanderbilt and Georgia. In those games, the Cats allowed its opponents 70 points and at least 47-percent shooting from the field. Since the two-game slide, the players have narrowed their focus on solid defense.

"We have been getting better and working harder on defense, especially pressuring the ball," said junior guard Joe Crawford, who is third on the team in steals with 18.

UK will put its defense to the test against South Carolina (12-9, 2-6 SEC) tonight in a rematch of a Jan. 16 blowout that the Cats won 87-49.

"Our defense was just a minor setback," Crawford said. "We want to continue to move up and continue to win games."

UK VS. SOUTH CAROLINA

Site Rupp Arena, 7 p.m.
Series UK leads 38-7
Television Lincoln Financial
Coaches UK: Tubby Smith (16th year overall, 382-138, 10th at UK 258-78)
USC: Dave Odum (21st year overall, 390-253, 6th at USC, 112-79)

UK (17-5, 6-2 SEC)

Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pts.	Rb.
G	Ramel Bradley	6-2	176	Jr.	13.6	3.7*
G	Joe Crawford	6-5	211	Jr.	14.7	4.0
G	Derrick Jasper	6-6	213	Fr.	4.9	3.9
F	Bobby Perry	6-8	215	Sr.	6.7	3.7
C	Randolph Morris	6-11	259	Jr.	15.5	7.3

USC (12-9, 2-6 SEC)

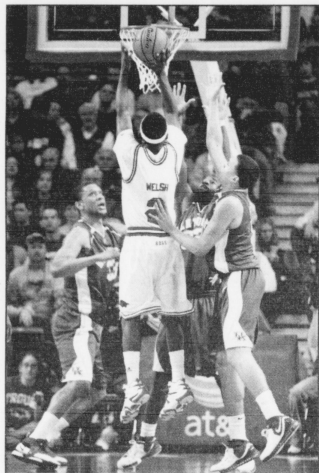
Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pts.	Rb.
G	Tre Kelley	6-4	188	Sr.	16.8	5.0*
G	Bryce Sheldon	6-4	196	Sr.	8.1	1.5
G	Dominique Archie	6-7	208	Fr.	8.7	4.9
F	Evaldas Baniulis	6-7	209	Fr.	4.6	2.7
C	Brandon Wallace	6-9	203	Sr.	10.5	9.6

*assists

WHO TO WATCH

For UK: Joe Crawford. Crawford lit South Carolina up in the first meeting with 23 points on 9-of-12 shooting. Crawford has been overshadowed in recent games by Jodie Meeks and Ramel Bradley, but he has been the most consistent performer to date. He is the second leading scorer in league play with 18.8 points per game. He is also shooting 54.4 percent in conference games.

For USC: Tre Kelley. Kelley is USC's leading scorer and virtually its only hope if the Gamecocks are to pull the upset over the Cats. Kelley scored 19 points in the first meeting even though he played with a banged knee. Kelley is third in league games in scoring at 17.5 points per game. He will likely need a monster game for USC to leave Rupp Arena with a win.



BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF

UK Juniors Randolph Morris and Joe Crawford, and freshman Derrick Jasper defend a shot from Arkansas' Stefan Welsh in the Cats' 82-74 win over the Razorbacks on Saturday. Crawford, who scored 13 points in the game, said the Cats have been "working harder on defense, especially pressuring the ball."

Swim team a long shot going into SEC

By Leila Kalegi
lkalegi@kykernel.com

UK head coach Gary Conely knows his team will be facing tough odds when the Southeastern Conference swimming championships start today in UK's Lancaster Aquatic Center.

"It's a really competitive conference," Conely said. "I think we'll do real well, we're kind of the middle of the pack."

Last season, Auburn won the men's championship and Georgia won the women's. Conely knows this year won't be any easier. "Auburn will probably win both men's and women's," Conely said. "Auburn's the best, and then probably Florida's the next best team."

However, Conely said, the Cats do have some races that they can win.

"The women have some relays I think are going to be right in there," he said. "On a good night, they might win some events."

Junior Jennifer Bradford is also

confident in the women's relay teams, an event the team has done well in so far this season.

The team is hoping to qualify for the NCAA Championship during the meet. There are A-cut and B-cut times. Anyone who makes the A-cut is automatically in the NCAA Championship. The rest of the field is decided by the number of swimmers allowed in each event based on the fastest times.

"Ninety percent of the cuts that will go to the NCAA in our conference will be made at this meet," Conely said.

With such high stakes, being familiar and comfortable with the pool could help UK and its confidence, junior Kristian Outinen said.

"The home crowd will be the biggest advantage," Outinen said. "It's your place, you want to defend it. You get fired up more when you have home support. You don't want to let people down."

The competition starts today at noon and lasts until Saturday. Admission is \$20 per day.

International play blamed for injuries to NBA stars

By Michael Lee
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — It was blamed for Dwyane Wade's left wrist injury, Chris Bosh's bruised left knee, Chris Paul's severe ankle sprain, Brad Miller's left foot injury, LeBron James' sore toe and the end of Joe Johnson's NBA-leading ironman streak.

And now, some may throw in the left knee injury the Washington Wizards' Antawn Jamison suffered on Jan. 26 as the latest casualty. The supposed source of all of these maladies? Participation in the U.S. men's national team last summer.

There has been no direct correlation between playing international basketball in the summer and regular season NBA injuries — "It's kind of a thing of chance. Guys get hurt," said Los Angeles Clippers forward and U.S. team member Elton Brand — but several participants from the team that finished third at the FIBA World Championship in Japan last summer have admitted that the commitment has made this season more of a grind.

Wade, James and Jamison have complained of fatigue, and others such as Chicago Bulls forward Kirk Hinrich got off to noticeably sluggish starts this season. When observers noticed a decline in Brand's production — his scoring has dipped by almost four points

this season — they immediately pointed to his summer stint with Team USA. "That's what everyone is saying because my point production is down," Brand said. "I don't want to."

Not every player is struggling as a result of playing last summer. The Denver Nuggets' Carmelo Anthony is leading the league in scoring at 31.2 points per game despite serving a 15-game suspension. Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard is having a breakout season and ranks third in the league in rebounding and Houston forward Shane Battier is producing at a similar rate as last season, as was Jamison.

Most of the participants invited last summer played a full regular season and playoffs, then followed that with an intense two-week training session in Las Vegas, a three-week exhibition throughout China and South Korea and the two-week world championship tournament in Japan, which concluded in early September. "I'm not going to lie, it affected me," Bosh said. "It's going to affect the body because I'm not used to playing like that all summer, and at that intensity. I'm not going to use it as an excuse. Yeah, sometimes I was tired. I had a little injury that came out of nowhere, but I don't know if that was the cause of it."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Brooks to talk about recruits

UK head football coach Rich Brooks will hold a news conference today on national signing day to discuss this year's recruiting class.

This could shape up to be Brooks' most complete recruiting class since he's been at UK, based largely on the success of last year's team. The Cats finished 8-5 and beat Clemson in the Music City Bowl.

Rivals.com and scout.com both have UK's class ranked in the nation's

top 60. Scout.com has UK's class ranked No. 59 while rivals.com has the Cats' commitments at No. 55. ESPN.com has the Cats' class ranked No. 40.

Coaches can't talk about their recruits until they are signed, making today the first day Brooks is allowed



Brooks

to speak specifically about any of his signees.

Tennis nets top-five class

The UK women's tennis team's 2006 recruiting class has been ranked as the nation's fourth best, according to tennisrecruiting.net.

The four recruits are Megan Broderick (Tampa), Lauren Meier (Woodstock, Ga.), Alaina Trgovich (Munster, Ind.) and Sarah Woestmann (Boca Raton, Fla.)

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Hitmen strike police stations, killing seven in Acapulco

By Hector Tobar and Carlos Martínez
Los Angeles Times

MEXICO CITY — Gunmen disguised as army soldiers attacked two police stations and killed seven people in the resort city of Acapulco, with the hit men apparently videotaping the assassinations as they carried them out, according to police and media reports.

Police officials who asked not to be identified said the two stations had been at the center of a dispute between reform-minded state officials and city police suspected of ties to drug-trafficking. The attacks were carried out by groups of men dressed in olive drab and berets.

The assailants simultaneously entered the two police stations disguised as soldiers from a Mexican army unit, said one police official who asked not to be named. City police at the station suspected of ties to drug trafficking had been recently replaced by state police, officials said. All those killed Tuesday were employees of the state police.

According to media reports, each attack was carried out by about eight men armed with assault rifles, including an AK-47-style weapon known here as "the goat's horn," a signature weapon of Mexico's drug-trafficking operations.

"They used green-beret type uniforms as a disguise apparently," said one police official. "They caught the police completely by surprise."

The dead included five po-

lice officers and two secretaries assigned to the stations.

Acapulco and other cities and towns along the Pacific Coast of Mexico are key way stations in a market of illicit drugs worth several billion dollars, according to U.S. officials. Hundreds of tons of Colombian-produced cocaine are smuggled on ships to Mexico every year, and then transported overland to the United States.

Rival drug bands have been fighting each other for months over control of the trade routes through Acapulco, surrounding Guerrero state, and the adjacent state of Michoacan.

Since taking office in December, President Felipe Calderon has sent army troops into both states, and also to Tijuana and the western state of Sinaloa as part of an effort to control drug-related violence. More than 2,000 people were killed in Mexico's drug war last year, according to news media tallies.

Calderon also ordered the extradition of 15 alleged drug trafficking bosses to the United States last month.

But the drug-related violence appears to have continued unabated.

Last week, two Mexican army soldiers were executed in a hail of bullets in Calliacan, the capital of Sinaloa. On Monday,

a high-ranking Sinaloa state police official was also killed in Calliacan, while in the state of Guerrero assailants attacked a police station with hand grenades.

Tuesday's attacks in Acapulco were carried out with a speed and precision that suggested the involvement of professional hit men.

The two police stations involved, were about two miles from Acapulco's tourist center and near the port, an impoverished area notorious as a center of drug transshipments.

According to media reports, the attackers arrived at the first police station in sport utility vehicles, entered and shot a secretary, a police officer and the station's commander. Witnesses told police at least one of the attackers was recording the operation with a video camera.

The second attack unfolded less than a mile away, with one of the assailants dressed as an army soldier asking "Is everyone here?" before opening fire: a secretary and three police officers were killed.

Internet video postings of footage showing the dead of the drug wars, complete with captions and soundtracks mocking rivals, have become a fixture of the drug war in the past year.

"They used green-beret type uniforms as a disguise apparently. They caught the police completely by surprise."

MEXICAN POLICE OFFICIAL

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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 original 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.

Ky.'s schools doing their part to grow state's economy

Kentucky's economy has a long history of lagging behind the rest of the nation when it comes to job growth, the state's dependence on manufacturing and the low percentage of residents who hold four-year college degrees.

Although the national economy remains strong and the nation's unemployment levels continue to drop, the Kernel reported last week that since 2004, unemployment has actually risen slightly in Kentucky.

For college graduates, however, the outlook is a little brighter, according to economic experts at last week's 18th Annual Economic Outlook Conference.

The state's four-year degree holders have an automatic advantage over their peers who have not completed a college education. Finding a job should be easier for those residents.

According to a separate Kernel article, there will be more degree holders competing for high-paying jobs in the coming years.

Ninety-five percent of recent in-state graduates from Kentucky's public colleges and universities have chosen to remain in Kentucky following graduation, a 12-percent increase since 2000, according to a study conducted by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

One key economic indicator for a state like Kentucky is the number of college graduates living in the state. Kenneth Troske, an economics professor and director of UK's Center for Business and Economic Research, told the Kernel, "Kentucky ranks significantly below the national averages in terms of adults with

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four-year degrees," he said. The increase in college graduates among Kentuckians is nothing but good news for the future of the Commonwealth's economy. A higher number of educated residents will make the pool of employees bigger, and might convince high-tech companies to relocate to Kentucky.

"The idea is that a more educated populace will be a more prosperous one as well," UK President Lee Todd told the Kernel. "Education and investment in our growth and success is, I am convinced, the more important thing we can do to grow Kentucky's economy," he said.

CPE's study does provide good news for Kentucky's economy; and lawmakers and administrators must use the numbers as a starting point for growth.

In order to reach the national average by 2020, Kentucky needs more than 200,000 additional bachelor's degree holders.

"If we maintain this commitment to excellence in education, we will... have even more success in attracting the kinds of jobs that will keep more of our best and brightest in Kentucky as well as attracting more people to our commonwealth from outside the state," Todd said.

We hope UK and other state public universities, along with legislators in Frankfort, continue to facilitate access to higher education for Kentucky's students. The future of the state's economy depends on institutions' ability to provide a quality, affordable education.



AARON SMITH, Kernel cartoonist

Ky. GOP primary is heating up — come and meet the candidates

Billy Harper, a multi-millionaire contractor-turned hot rod driver-turned Republican candidate for governor, came to town last week for the grand opening of his Lexington campaign headquarters.

To be fair, I was primarily invited to attend Harper's event by rumors of free cookies and T-shirts, but recent developments in the now three-way Republican race for governor peaked my curiosity beyond control.

Harper's visit to Lexington came on the heels of polling numbers released from the Anne Northup-Jeff Hoover camp showing that Ernie Fletcher will be "unelectable" in the November general election.

The polling may not have been a momentum builder for Harper like it was for Northup (44 percent for Fletcher and 12 percent for Harper), but if you're a political newcomer like Billy Harper, you have to be pleased with the competitiveness of your candidacy.

Like many Kentucky Republicans at this stage in the primary season, I'm still unsure whom exactly I'm supporting on Election Day. So before I wrote off Harper's candidacy as a Ross Perot-rep, I listened to him in person.

In between stuffing my face with snacks, I heard a speaker that was un-

DEBATE



polished, but altogether genuine. Heck, I could even vote for this guy.

Then deja vu hit me; and I was taken back to November of 2003. The speaker was a former engineer-turned pilot-turned doctor-turned preacher-turned candidate for governor named Ernie Fletcher.

Fletcher seemed outside of the state political establishment and reform-capable, but he hasn't fared as well as hoped for. Don't get me wrong, I love the Gov, but of the "Three P's of Good Government" — policy, politics and press — Fletcher has failed miserably at everything except policy.

The prospect of electing Democrats back into the Governor's Mansion and giving them another 40 years to bridle the progress of our state may cause loyalty to Fletcher to take a back seat to political reality.

During last week's State Republican Party Lincoln Day Dinner in Louisville, U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, R-Louisville, joked that the only endorsement he was giving this season was to the Indianapolis Colts. But he was mistaken — Anne Northup will have the full luxury of McConnell's statewide campaign machine and donor networks. Even still,

it remains to be seen how the machine will hold up against serious inter-party opposition.

For GOP primary voters this is an unprecedented territory. Pending political maneuvering in the General Assembly could eliminate the state's current electoral runoff system where if no single candidate receives 40 percent of the vote, the top two vote getters go head-to-head in a runoff election.

If you're a campaign manager for a candidate who appears to be a slight front-runner in the polls (like Ernie Fletcher or Democrat Speaker of the House and gubernatorial candidate Jody Richards), you want the law repealed so that a self-financed campaign like Billy Harper or Democrat Bruce Lunsford can't dump millions into a second election campaign. Effectively, the dynamics of the 2007 gubernatorial primary could change with the drop of a hat, and probably will do so often.

If you are interested in politics, the UK College Republicans will host the 2007 College Republican Lincoln Day Dinner at the King Alumni House on February 20, featuring candidates from each governor's campaign and all other statewide offices seekers.

If you want to find out more about these candidates in person, this may be your best chance.

Please join us at our next club meeting on Tuesday, February 13 at 8 p.m., on the 3rd Floor of Commons Market for more detail.
Brent Burchett is a public service and leadership senior. He serves as chairman of UK College Republicans. E-mail: burchett@uky.edu.

Custom ambulances will benefit UK's young patients

The UK Children's Hospital took a major step in the care of its patients last November when it received a new ambulance that was specifically designed for children.

The ambulance, which was designed by nurses to meet the needs of its young patients, is capable of transporting a full-size stretcher, a pediatric conversion stretcher or two isolettes, which are small enclosed beds used for transporting infants.

The ambulance also is equipped with a DVD player and a GPS system.

The ambulance is often used to transport kids from around the state. Nurses often take several-hour-long trips to and from Eastern Kentucky to transport children to Lexington. Such a long ambulance ride can be a scary thing for young children, and it's important that the Kohl's helped the process of get-

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ting the ambulance by donating \$520,000 from 2001 to 2006.

With the help of Kohl's, Central, Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky now have an ambulance unlike any other in the area.

This is a great advancement for the UK Children's Hospital and its job in providing the best care it can to its patients.

With room for two nurses on top of the patient, the ambulance should be adequately equipped to handle most problems.

Both the UK Children's Hospital and Kohl have done a great job by teaming up to make a difference for Kentucky's youth. And, with another specialized ambulance coming to the hospital this fall, the necessary steps are in place to ensure the safety of kids around the state.

Valentines gifts still abundant — even for cash-strapped college students

Since Valentine's Day is only a week away, I'm sure all of you already have the perfect gift purchased — carefully thought out for months and chosen with absolute certainty that your sweetheart will love it more than anything else in the world.

Or you could be like the other 99 percent of college students who just checked the calendar to see if it really is February 7 already. It is. I promise.

Over the next week or so, Internet Web sites promising gift ideas will be swarmed with traffic as people look for that perfect, last-minute gift. The problem: most of those great gifts require at least a couple of days.

That said, I'd thought I'd fulfill my civic responsibility this week by both reminding everyone that Hallmark's favorite evil scheme is only seven days away, while at the same time provide a handful of gift ideas with the broke college student demographic (myself included) in mind.

First of all, and you've heard it all your life, make the gift personal. While this doesn't mean that hot-gu-

ing a box of Easy-mac to a construction paper heart will work as well for you as it did when you were eight, it does give you some inexpensive, but quality possibilities.

Even though the age of the MP3 player seems to be upon us, making a CD for your honey full of songs that epitomize your relationship (whether they are anything from "Smack That" to "Take My Breath Away") still shows that you spent time picking out relevant songs, and really thought about the relationship.

Just make sure you listen to the entire song before you put it on the CD. Trust me — your girlfriend will not find "Come Sail Away" romantic once Styx starts singing about aliens at the end.

Still, you may not be able to burn CDs, or have access to the songs you want to put on it. Fear not, for there is one gift that is always a winner — the massage. For those of you with money to spend, there is the ever-popular spa gift certificate. For the rest of us, however, nothing says "I love you" like taking the time to cater to your significant other in a intimate, yet innocent way. My disclaimer for this one, though, is to do some research on good massage techniques. A massage done poorly can be nothing short of painful, and won't score you any points.

Finally, there is the card. Often,

overlooked as a mere auxiliary gift, the card, when done properly, can stand alone as a fine gift in and of itself for the financially challenged.

For instance, the best card is not necessarily the most expensive, three feet tall, lace-covered monstrosity. It may, instead, be the small, blank-inside card with a rose on the front. The most important thing to remember, though: It really is the inside that counts. Those long, generic love poems that come pre-made do nothing but say, "I love you honey, but I needed a complete stranger to put my feelings into words." This is not the way to appear personal and thoughtful. Instead, choose a card with a lot of blank space to write a heart-felt message.

Of course, there is always chocolate, jewelry, flowers and the ever-popular teddy bear; and while these can seem generic and overdone, there's a reason that the classics are the classics. Again, though, add a personal touch by getting her favorite flowers, or his favorite kind of watch.

The trick is to be thoughtful, and to make a goal to pick up the gift at least a few days in advance. That may mean ignoring Halo 2 for two or three hours this Saturday, but such is the price of love.
Chad Reese is a philosophy and political science junior. E-mail: opinions@kykernel.com.

Weekly Poll Question

Do you support the restructuring plan that Student Government is currently considering, which would change the committee system and add up to 10 seats to the SG Senate?

Vote online at www.kykernel.com

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



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SNOW

Continued from page 1

medical center," he said. "It's never unoccupied, it runs 24 hours a day."

Some students don't see the recent snows as severe enough to shut down class.

"The roads aren't bad enough yet. I don't think," said accounting sophomore Phil Sebastian. "I think it would have to get pretty bad."

Others thought UK should spare students a frigid walk.

"It's too cold to go to class," said communications junior Katie Wilder. "It's not safe."

And others said some of the university was shut down as is.

"In essence, classes are closed anyway," said Derrick Meads, a visual resources curator for the College of Design. "A lot of faculty members are canceling class."

But as far as the possibility of halting class because of severe weather, administrators, students and staff seemed to agree with Meads.

"I doubt it," Meads said.

SG

Continued from page 1

four new divisions with specific areas of study such as graduate school concerns and campus activities.

"So many of the current committees aren't really serving their purpose," Odoi said at the Jan. 24 meeting. "I think by restructuring them, they will better serve the Student Government."

Some students are skeptical that these changes will affect how Student Government is viewed.

"Everyone thinks the Student Government elections are just a popularity contest among the Greek organizations," English sophomore Jacob McCoy said. "I commend them on trying to improve their organization, but I seriously doubt that they are going to be taken more seriously."

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from Feb. 1 to Feb. 5.

- Feb. 1. Theft from Student Center at 10:52 a.m.
- Feb. 1. Theft from UK College of Medicine at 12:19 p.m.
- Feb. 2. Alcohol Intoxication arrest made at UK Hospital at 5:52 a.m.
- Feb. 2. Attempted sexual assault reported at Smith Residence Hall at 9:27 a.m.
- Feb. 2. Identity theft reported at UK Hospital at 10:37 a.m.
- Feb. 3. Baby abduction from UK Hospital at 12:02 p.m.
- Feb. 4. Theft reported by phone from UK Safety and Security building at 1:37 p.m.
- Feb. 4. Theft of laptop from W.T. Young Library at 5:52 p.m.
- Feb. 5. Theft from Kentucky Clinic at 4:47 p.m.

Compiled from reports at UK Police Department.

Compiled by staff writer Alice Haymond.

E-mail ahaymond@kykernel.com.

PROTEST

Continued from page 1

ly want to hear what's going on ... but I can't imagine what people had to deal with before this center was active."

With the upcoming Sexual Assault Awareness month in March, the Women's Place has several awareness events planned including a "Safe Dates Auction" and a discussion with a rape survivor.

"You'll see us all month long with our pretty posters," Lambert said.

D.C.

Continued from page 1

been named "Dateline: Washington," will have the panelists speak on covering the president and other political news from Washington, D.C., as well as the changing face of journalism and the challenges it presents.

Beth Barnes, director of the school of journalism and telecommunications, said all journalism students should take advantage of the symposium.

"If you want to work in journalism, you want to work in Washington," Barnes said. "One

of the responsibilities of journalism is to speak truth to power, and Washington is where the base of power is in this country."

"By having a good mix of recent graduates and people who have been out for a while ... it shows what students can do both short term and longer term with their degree," Barnes said.

But despite the opportunity to hear from homegrown journalism professionals, organizers have difficulty raising a large student turnout.

"I wish more students would attend," Barnes said. "We try to avoid class-time conflicts when scheduling, but people have jobs and night classes. Anything that requires extra effort, people are

less likely to do."

But Barnes emphasized the value of attending.

"I am absolutely sure that students who go find it extremely worthwhile," Barnes said, adding that just because the panelists are professionals, doesn't mean they are off-limits.

"It surprises me that more students don't hand out business cards and resumés," she said. "I think the panelists would be flattered. Of course, Terry Hunt won't hire you on the spot, but he would be a good mentor."

The event is free and open to all students, faculty, staff and community members.

Astronaut accused of attempted murder

By Peter Whoriskey and Daniel de Vise
THE WASHINGTON POST

ORLANDO, Fla. — She prepared for the 950-mile drive from Houston with the discipline of someone who had flown 13 days in space. The steel mallet, folding knife and rubber tube were all catalogued on a handwritten list, police say. She had maps, she had bus schedules and she had a disguise. Thinking like an astronaut, she brought diapers to avoid bathroom stops.

Lisa Nowak set off for Orlando International Airport seven months after the July 4 launch of the shuttle Discovery, her first trip to space, and probably her last.

The NASA astronaut from Rockville, Md., was charged Tuesday with the attempted murder in Orlando of an apparent rival for the affections of another astronaut. Nowak, one of 46 women to fly in the space shuttle, is now the first active astronaut to be arrested on a felony charge. She left an Orlando jail Tuesday afternoon with her jacket pulled over her head.

Police said Nowak, 43, stalked the younger woman, 30-year-old Air Force Capt. Colleen Shipman, at an airport parking lot early Monday, dressed in a dark wig, glasses and a tan hooded trench coat. Unable to gain her victim's confidence, police said, she sprayed her with pepper spray through a crack in Shipman's car window before the car sped away.

According to a charging document, she intended to confront Shipman about her relationship with Navy Cmdr. William Oefelein, an astronaut who, like Nowak, is based at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Nowak, who is married with a teen-age son and twin daughters, told police she and Oefelein had "more than a working relationship but less than a romantic relationship," according to the document. Nowak carried with her e-mails from Shipman to Oefelein.

Neither Shipman nor Oefelein could be reached by phone Tuesday. Oefelein, born in Fort Belvoir, Va., is 41 and has two children. He piloted Discovery to the International Space Station in December.

Police say Nowak may have been planning the confrontation as early as Jan. 23, the day she printed out the maps she used to navigate from Texas to Florida, according to a police affidavit. She had obtained a copy of Shipman's flight plans to Orlando.

The affidavit provides this account: Nowak checked into a La Quinta Inn in Orlando under a false name, stashed her car and set off to meet Shipman's midnight flight from Houston to Orlando. The younger officer was returning to Patrick Air Force Base in Florida.

Shipman picked up her luggage, which was late, about 3 a.m. As she waited for the bus to the airport satellite parking lot, Nowak lingered at a nearby taxi stop, wearing the wig and a trench coat. When Shipman boarded the bus, Nowak boarded, too. She got off where Shipman did. Nowak was armed with a steel mallet, a buck knife and a BB gun that resembled a real 9mm semiautomatic handgun. The BB gun was loaded with pellets and was set to fire, according to the affidavit.

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