

# THE Kentucky Kernel

Friday, January 13, 2006

Celebrating 35 years of independence

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## UK proposes more oversight of SG

By Sean Rose  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK's Student Government oversight came closer to being a reality Wednesday after the Board of Trustees' student affairs committee approved the resolution in a 3-1 vote.



Ellingsworth

The sole dissenter was SG President Becky Ellingsworth. SG previously released a press release calling the changes "an obvious power play to gain control of the only statutorily independent student organization on campus."

Pat Terrell, vice president of student affairs, proposed the changes in October 2005. Under the changes, Terrell would have oversight to ensure SG complies with university policies.

Also the proposal that passed the committee allows the University Appeals Board to affirm or void an SG election and send it to SG to correct possible violations. SG presidents serve as the only student representative on the board.

Ellingsworth said she strongly opposed the proposal, claiming it gave too much power to UK as to the student representative should be.

"It's basically the only trustee seat that has administrative oversight," Ellingsworth said. "In effect, what you're

doing is discriminating against the student member of the board."

Student affairs committee member Jeff Dembo said one reason he voted for the proposed changes was to "ensure that we can seat a student trustee." Students had no representative on the Board of Trustees over the summer and the beginning of the school year because of last year spring's controversial SG election.

"The university and the board have a vested interest because of the student trustee," Dembo said. "We have to balance the autonomy of SG with control in dealing with the university."

The proposals emerged in the shadow of the 2005 SG election decision that was

See SG on page 2

## UK adopts stricter van safety policy

By Sean Rose and Darliah Shafa  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

After growing concerns over the safety of UK's 15-passenger vans, the University Accident Review Board and Vehicle Safety Committee issued new policies to improve safety.

"We're going to use them in the safest way possible and over time, eliminate them," said Frank Butler, UK vice president for finance and administration. "We won't be buying any new ones."

In a November report, The Kernel found that nine of UK's benchmark schools have discontinued the use of 15-passenger vans. Of the 10 others that still use them, eight require driver training.

UK now mandates that all 15-passenger vans have the rear seat removed, along with the seat belts. Vans are also allowed to carry no more than 11 people, including the driver, and must carry fewer passengers depending on how much luggage is in the van.

These mandates are designed to lower the rollover risk for the vans. According to a 2004 National Highway Transportation Safety Administration study, 15-passenger vans with 10 or more passengers have a rollover risk three times greater than vans with fewer than five passengers.

"It's based on what we understand is the safest way to utilize these vans," Butler said.

See Vans on page 2

## Art as child's play

UK professor's experience teaching children reignites his passion for art

By Keith Brooks  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

George Szekely believes the future of art lies in the hands of children.

The UK art education professor's work is on display at an art exhibition today in the Tuska Center for Contemporary Art called "Portrait Lessons," a series of self-portraits which took three years to create.

Szekely said many of the pieces are inspired by several personal experiences, but many draw from his observations of children and their interaction in elementary schools.

"I start my day in the morning, writing books about children's art," Szekely said. He has published several books about children's art, including his most recent publication, "From Home Art to School Art," which draws from his experiences with his own children and teaching in public schools.

Szekely argued that much of the art programs in today's schools tend to be too formulaic or mechanic. It was when he lived in Brooklyn, N.Y., during his college years that he began to notice the significance.

"The only fresh art I saw was when I was teaching in Brooklyn," he said.

He attributed inspiration from children from teaching in a sub-par elementary school in Brooklyn. Szekely, at the time, had no credentials to teach.

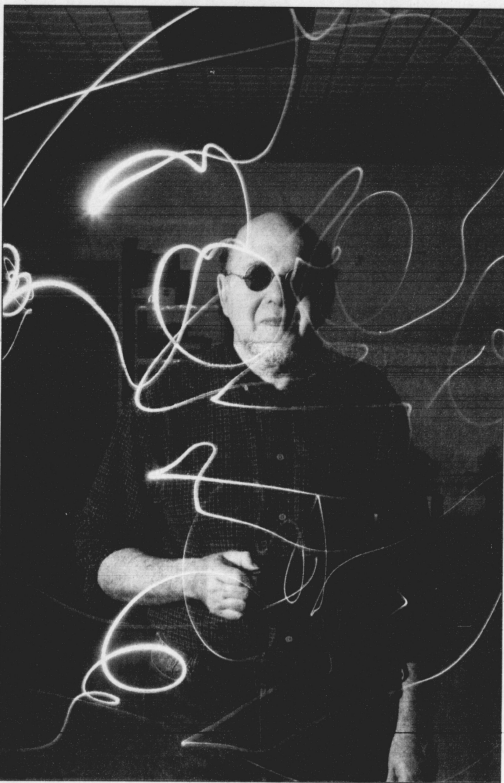
"I was amazed that art was still alive," he said. Unlike many elementary schools at the time, Szekely worked in an institution where the arts were not celebrated liberally or enforced.

Szekely encouraged the students to work with debris and simple materials, like cardboard and glue. He said he allowed his students to manipulate their own projects and he was astounded by the results.

"I just sat back and I was amazed," he said. "I hardly called it teaching."

It was the sincerity he learned from

See Art on page 2



Above: George Szekely, a professor of art education, creates a self-portrait with a flashlight similar to the ones he has on display in the Tuska Gallery. There is a reception for his show tonight at the gallery from 5-7 p.m.

Right: Szekely is currently presenting "Portrait Lessons" at the Tuska Gallery, his 10th solo show at the gallery. The show features dozens of self-portraits he has done over the years, including this one. The exhibit will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Tuska Gallery for Contemporary Art. Szekely will lecture on his work at the gallery at 1 p.m.

Photos by Keith Smiley | Staff

“There is no way of drawing; there is no way of making art. It is something an artist can discover and consciously anyone can discover.”

— George Szekely, a professor of art education, on encouraging the independence of his students



## Gaines Center earns grant for humanities

By Wes Blevins  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK's research dollars won't just go to science programs, thanks in part to a national grant announced yesterday.

UK President Lee Todd announced the Gaines Center for the Humanities has received a \$220,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant will be matched 4-to-1 over a four-year period by private donations, creating an endowment of \$1.1 million. These funds will be used to enhance public programming and to create the John R. Gaines Endowed Chair in the Humanities.

Kentucky needs a "whole university" with a strong effort in the humanities, so putting money exclusively into science research would fall the state, Todd said. The NEH Grant "points out the quality of faculty associated with one of our golden nuggets of undergraduate education" at UK, Todd said.

UK is one of four academic institutions chosen to receive the grants, and it was the only public university chosen. The other colleges receiving support are Johns Hopkins University, Cornell University and Swarthmore College.

Dan Rowland, director of the Gaines Center, said from a public relations standpoint, this puts UK on a level of being competitive with the nation's top institutions. He said it shows "the best students at UK are every bit as good as the best at Cornell, Johns Hopkins, and others."

Todd agreed, adding that for UK to achieve top

See Gaines on page 2

## 'Road' brings Rupp, racism into spotlight

By Chris Johnson  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

With today's premiere of "Glory Road," the movie about Texas Western College's underdog run to the 1966 NCAA Championship over the UK men's basketball team, the race relations of UK and legendary coach Adolph Rupp are again in the media spotlight.

In the national championship game against UK, Texas Western started five black basketball players. UK's team had zero black athletes. The game has since carried great racial overtones — prompting sportswriter David Israel to call it the "Brown vs. Board of Education of college basketball" in 1978.

See Glory on page 6

Newsroom: 257-1915



## From Cartoons to Nudes Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist judges nude art in Lexington

By Charlie Denison  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

"Nudes in Kentucky?" asked Pulitzer Prize-winner Patrick Oliphant.

"That's quite an intriguing thought," said the man who The New York Times calls "one of the most influential cartoonists now working."

Oliphant wasn't sure what to think when Charles Jolly, chairman of the Lexington Art League's visual arts committee, asked him to be the judge for Lexington's 2006 Nude International. The whole idea surprised the native Australian, who now resides in Santa Fe, N.M.

"It was a juxtaposition I wasn't ready for," he said.

Prepared or not, Oliphant chose 106 works out of 842 pieces to judge. This year's Nude International is the 20th consecutive year the league has held the show. This, to the art museum's knowledge, makes it the longest-running annual show in North America entirely devoted to figurative art.

"The show is much better than I thought," Oliphant said. "I only saw slides before I came here. For that, I am

glad I came." Artists represented 22 states including Massachusetts, Washington, South Dakota, Florida, and the District of Columbia. Artist Garry Hamilton, a native of Nova Scotia, had artwork submitted to make the show truly international. Of the accepted submissions, 17 belong to Lexington artists.

Oliphant said he'd never been a juror for such a show before.

"I've been on a panel before where we all shared the blame," he said. "But this is quite a shag on the rocks."

Despite his success, including winning a Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning in 1966, Oliphant said he never feels comfortable judging others.

"I'd rather give this job to someone else," he said. "You want it?"

Oliphant arrived in Colorado in 1964 from Australia to work for The Denver Post. With the crises President Lyndon Johnson was facing in Vietnam and the polarization of the United States, Oliphant's satirical creativity flowed like he had found "heaven on earth." Oliphant has sketched administration

after administration, president after president, and hasn't been shy to stir up controversy after controversy.

His satirical works include sculptures of former President Richard Nixon, a centaur sculpture of Johnson, George H. W. Bush, and more. In Oliphant's "Naked Nixon" from 1985, Nixon embarrassingly covers his privates.

"Today, I have as much work as I did in the Nixon years," he said. "It's not good for the country, but it's good for me."

Always sketching or creating, Oliphant calls himself a perennial artist. "It's a compulsion," he said. "Every day, I draw."

E-mail  
features@kykernel.com

### If You Go

When: 6 to 9 p.m.  
Where: Lexington Art League, 209 Castledown Drive  
Cost: \$30 for LAL members  
\$40 for non-members.  
Free from Jan. 14 to Jan. 22

Oliphant will also be speaking at the league tomorrow from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free to league members and costs \$5 for non-members.

## 'Road' treads familiar ground

By Kevin Crust  
THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD — In 1966, Texas Western, a relatively small college of mining and metallurgy, stomped to the national collegiate men's basketball championship over Adolph Rupp's vaunted University of Kentucky Wildcats. It's a terrific story of a team of Davids with hoop dreams running a gauntlet of patrician Goliaths against a backdrop of momentous social change. The Miners, led by Coach Don Haskins, counted an unprecedented seven African Americans in its lineup, including the starting five in the final game, and changed the sociological makeup of the sport, paving the way for the integration of the major Southern collegiate sports conferences.

"Glory Road" is a slick, entertaining version of that story, executed with crowd-pleasing efficiency by producer Jerry Bruckheimer, director James Gartner and screenwriters Christopher Cleveland and Bettina Glavis, but not surprisingly lacking in subtlety or complexity. Ripped directly from Disney's playbook of inspira-

tional sports movies, it's devoid of any original elements that might deter it from that successful formula, heaving closer to the sentimental clichés of "Remember the Titans" than the much better "Miracle" or "The Rookie."

As Denzel Washington ("Remember the Titans") did before him, Josh Lucas steps into the role of a tough-talking, high-minded coach who teaches his players more than just a game. Haskins arrives at Texas Western (now the University of Texas-El Paso) to inherit a team notably short on talent. The film has Haskins leaping directly from coaching girls high school basketball to leading the Miners to the championship in his first season, though he actually arrived in El Paso in 1961, and minimal integration had already occurred. These changes seem less about heightened drama or economical storytelling than earning easy laughs.

Much of the first part of the movie plays like a culture-clash comedy. Haskins and assistant coach Moe Iba (Evan Jones) recruit from the playgrounds and gyms of

the urban north and northeast, gobbling up talent that has been bypassed because of the color of a player's skin. From Detroit, the Bronx, and Gary, Indiana, the black players arrive in West Texas and think they've landed on Mars. As fishes-out-of-water, they must adjust to Haskins' harsh practices and the Tex-Mex culture before venturing into nearby Juarez for some forbidden entertainment.

They reach a detente with the white players they've largely reduced to supporting roles and the team comes together in its first game when Haskins learns to incorporate the new players' flashy playground game into his defense-first, team-oriented style. Derek Luke stars as the team's best player, Bobby Joe Hill, who Haskins rides to stay as focused on his game as he is on his girlfriend. The Miners become a juggernaut quickly rising in the national rankings as they move toward the showdown with all-white Kentucky.

While it's a good thing that the film will draw increased attention to them, the team's accomplishments are powerful enough to stand on their own.

## Top 20? We're already there.

The Kernel placed

# #9

in the William Randolph Hearst national writing competition.

We've been there.  
The Kernel has been in the top 10  
4 out of the last 5 years.

# KENTUCKY

### Attention UK Students & Staff!

Do you know a high school senior that should be a part of the Wildcat family?

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### 5:30pm to 8:00pm

### UK Student Center

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talk to local & state leaders • ask your teachers about extra credit

### Community Panelists Include...

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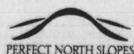


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IN OUR OPINION

## UK wasn't perfect in '66, but no villain either

Today marks the opening of Disney's "Glory Road," which depicts Texas Western's historic victory over Kentucky in the 1966 NCAA Championship. In the 40 years since the event, the game has been cast as a major turning point in the history of college sports. Adolph Rupp's powerhouse UK team, featuring an all-white starting lineup, was upset by Don Haskins' Texas Western squad, with the nation's first all-black lineup.

History, and Hollywood it seems, have placed UK in the unenviable role of the "bad guy" in the situation, the old order resisting change in a changing world. In retrospect, it is always easy to go back in time and place such labels on the participants of events. Considering the political landscape of the 1960s, UK's popular "villain" role is certainly understandable.

It cannot be ignored that UK basketball was, in fact, uniformly white in 1966. Rupp would not sign his first black recruit, Tom Payne, until 1969, becoming the second Southeastern Conference coach to integrate his program. In this regard, it is unfair to single out Kentucky Basketball segregation in the 1960s was not unique to UK; it was widespread throughout the Southeast. In fact, UK defeated an all-white Duke team to advance to the championship in 1966. Had "Rupp's Runts" lost in the semifinals, perhaps Duke would have inherited the racist image that has been cast upon UK.

Also impossible to ignore are the allegations of racism against Adolph Rupp himself. A 1991

Sports Illustrated article linked Rupp with the Ku Klux Klan. Critics point to Rupp's apparent reluctance to sign black players in painting him as a vehement segregationist. All accounts from former players and assistants, however, suggest that Rupp was not the racist that popular opinion indicates. What is clear is that Rupp was not as progressive on integration as other coaches of his time. Whether or not he was actually racist remains debatable to this day. Unfortunately the only person who is capable of answering that question accurately lies in Lexington Cemetery.

Perhaps the most telling aspect of the UK/Texas Western classic is the fact that none of the participants viewed the game in a racial context. In a Kernel article last spring, former UK player Larry Conley said, "It was as if we all of a sudden showed up and started playing against black basketball players. We'd been playing against black basketball players for years." Even Texas Western coach Don Haskins stated, "Everybody wanted to talk about the black and white thing... It was just a basketball game."

From all accounts, "Glory Road" is a very good movie. UK fans should not stray away from the box office simply because of Kentucky's role in the story. Instead, the film should be enjoyed simply as an underdog's tale, the small school with the coach nobody else wanted facing off against the traditional basketball power.

## King's legacy isn't just for one day

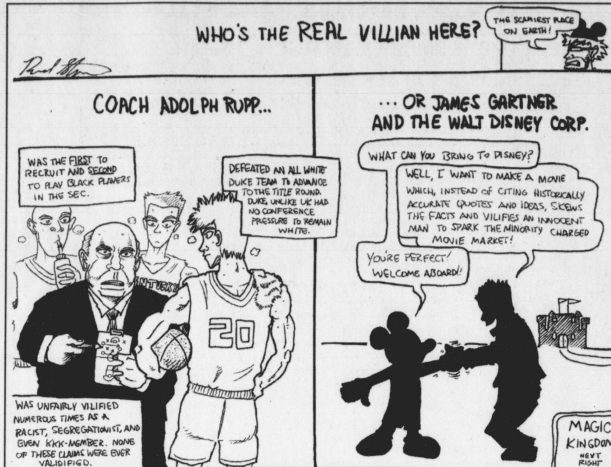
This Monday, the life of one of the nation's greatest freedom fighters will be celebrated with a federal holiday. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who led a nationwide crusade to ensure equality for blacks and other racial minorities, is honored every third Monday of January for his sacrifice for his fellow man.

Throughout the history of the United States, race has been the fulcrum for divisiveness and conflict in society. No other societal aspect has been the cause of so much turmoil or bloodshed as the color of one's skin and ethnic background. In a country whose founding documents profess, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created

equal," King's humility and non-violence brought accountability to the nation's capital and worldwide attention to the plight of his people.

Although the federal government has slated one day for observation of King's contribution to civil rights and the progressive advancement of our society, we should all be mindful every day of the ideal that King embodied and strive to apply them in our everyday lives — whether it be his diplomatic approach to solving conflict or his humility before others.

Hopefully King's dream will one day be realized for the sake of all Americans, regardless of race, color or creed.



BRAD STURGEON, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

## UK senior needs to learn from his predecessor

In the days after debacles against Kansas and Vanderbilt, UK fans, players and coaches



Tim Wiseman  
KERNEL COLUMNIST

have passed the time playing a Big Blue Blame Game to explain what went so wrong.

Some say it's the offense. Others point to discipline, recruiting or coaching.

Here's one: blame Chuck Hayes.

For four years, everyone's All-American was a source of stability and leadership on the court. When the Cats were in a funk, he would usually be the one to wake them up with a big play or the right words. When something needed to be done, he did it.

When things were the worst, everyone always knew you could count on Chuck.

In this comfort zone, no one else became a leader — Hayes had that position locked down.

Now, his former teammates look lost without him. As they stand (and they seem to do that too often this season) on the court, they seem to be waiting for someone to take charge, as if hoping someone

would start acting like Hayes. No one has.

There is hope — the Cats have a man who can step and lead, one who can provide the model for everyone else. His initials are R.M., and he is not a 6-foot-10 center. He is senior Ravi Moss, and it is his turn to lead.

He was close to Hayes, and now he needs to use what he learned the last three seasons.

He needs to scream when something has to be said; he needs to show the younger Cats what it means to play UK basketball every night; he needs to lead.

He belongs on the floor and in the starting lineup, because he has earned it and because he gives the Cats what they need the most.

Moss provides hustle on defense and on the glass. He knocks down shots from the outside. He makes the right decisions.

When he is on the floor, good things happen for the Cats — they look a little faster, a little more aggressive and whole lot easier to watch. Just like his when pal Hayes was here.

Against West Virginia, Moss started and scored 11 points in 28 minutes in the Cats' 80-66 win. Against North Carolina, Moss scored a career-high 17 points. And against Vandy, Moss provid-

ed one of the few bright spots, scoring 16 points and grabbing four rebounds.

In the last five games, senior guard Patrick Sparks has a total of 11 points. It is time for a change.

Sparks is struggling, and so are the Cats. UK coach Tubby Smith should not give up on Sparks — he is still the same guy who torched West Virginia for 25 points earlier this year — but Moss deserves the starting spot.

Until Sparks shoots his way out of this slump, he should be playing behind Moss. If he isn't knocking down 3-pointers (and he's not, just three for his last 19), he is too much of a defensive liability to be starting.

UK needs more of Moss, and the Cats need to follow his lead. If they start playing with the intensity of this walk-on from Hopkinsville, Ky., they can save us from a season of the Big Blue Blame Game.

In this first season after Hayes, the Cats need a leader. For four years, they were spoiled — they had a guy more than willing to take charge. Now, these Cats are desperate for someone to follow. Moss is the man they are looking for.

Tim Wiseman is an English senior.  
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## New films raise questions about American foreign policy

When I sit down at my computer to start writing my columns, usually hours after the original deadline, I usually



Doug Scott  
KERNEL COLUMNIST

browse the Internet for news articles that will get my creative juices flowing. Something that will inspire or outrage me to the point that the words will gush forth from my fingertips, through the keyboard and onto the screen.

My muse for my most recent rant, however, is not a journalistic or academic work. Instead, my muses are two recent films that have been released in the past month: "Syriana" and "Munich."

Both films explore the cause-and-effect relationship that perpetuates the global market: failed diplomacy, terrorism, and the lackluster "war on terror," and act as a catalyst for the audience to delve deeper into the rationale behind our current involvement in the Middle East, without the usual uberliberal pap found in

Michael Moore's political snuff films.

In "Syriana," the cause-and-effect relationship is corruption within the United States government in regards to oil monopolies and foreign policy, and how it has in turn cultivated a culture of militant anti-Western sentiment in the Middle East.

For some, especially those that subscribe to the "they hate us because we're free" mentality, this may be hard to swallow. Although I would not recommend basing any part of your ideological beliefs on a film, as so many did after "Fahrenheit 9/11" came out, there is no reason not to allow yourself to ponder for a second if perhaps "what goes around comes around" applies to the United States in our modern events. Actually, anyone with a textbook that covers the past 50 years of U.S. involvement in foreign affairs can figure that out. But apparently American voters aren't fond of figuring stuff out.

It's sad that it might take Hollywood cinema to make people start asking important questions, but the questions need to be asked.

Was the arming and training

of Muslim guerrillas during the Cold War really worth keeping the Soviets out of Afghanistan?

Has all the money we've poured into Saudi Arabia really been worth the oil and compounding disdain by other Arab countries?

Has the Iraq War been worth the thousands of dead and wounded American and coalition soldiers, not to mention the civilian death toll?

Are conservatives really so daft as to apply moral absolutism to domestic issues such as abortion and entertainment, but willing to subscribe to moral relativism when the consequences of their policies can turn a profit at the expense of those they classify as "uncivilized" or "barbaric"?

Are we, the American people, truly so Machiavellian in our approach to foreign policy that we will bend our morals and ethics in order to achieve our desires? It is that last question that "Munich" addresses, only from the vantage point of a former Mossad agent tasked with assassinating Palestinians who had a hand in the 1972 Munich massacre of 11 Israeli Olympians. Although the film deals with the

fallout of the incident and the subsequent assassinations, the film is also asking us to apply it to our situation in America.

One cannot deny that the

Is the "war on terror" slowly turning us into those we're fighting against?

events of Sept. 11 were horrible, inhuman, and tragic. Regardless of who you are, that day changed your life forever. However, the subsequent world events that have transpired since then have, coupled with the shock of that day, desensitized us to the consequences of our actions. Instead of taking into account the actions of our leaders in a global context, we instead see the U.S.-led "war on terror" against a backdrop of righteous vindication, a blind rage from which we cannot awake as long as a steady cadence of paranoia and fear are being whispered in our ears. Although crashing planes into buildings and following orders in a military campaign are two dif-

ferent things, just because you wear a uniform and get hazard pay does not make killing another human being any less barbaric.

The question worth asking is, who does this end? You cannot kill fanatical religious terrorism. You cannot kill an ideology. And the more persecuted a certain sect of society is, the stronger their convictions become.

The United States cannot go on indiscriminately killing people. Eventually, when the rage over Sept. 11 has finally subsided to the point that rational thought can permeate the public consciousness, we may finally begin to see the world through eyes unclouded by hate and revenge. Hopefully this societal revolution will come about sooner rather than later, before we have ourselves turned into the ideologically-driven fanatical killers that we once sought to resist.

The inhabitants of the United States, a country that is so highly regarded as a free, moral and democratic society, should never have to ask themselves, "What have we done?"

Doug Scott is a journalism senior. E-mail dscott@kykernel.com.

### Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Brenton Kenkel or Assistant 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

### Note to Readers

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.

### Columnists Needed

The Kernel is looking for new columnists to write for the Opinions page on a regular basis.

Columnists of all interests will be considered, but The Kernel especially seeks those who have an interest in campus and local issues.

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- Marshland resident
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- Start of aquip
- Picassos, e.g.
- Six-time Champ
- Bowl ramps: Abbr.
- Body shop no.
- Some e-mail letters
- Lake Superior's Royale
- Facial place
- Gord in "The Lord of the Rings," e.g.
- Grease target
- Ancient sorcerer
- Quip, part 2
- Its first sequel was Fiven
- "My Friend ..."
- 1949 film in which Martin & Lewis debuted as a team
- Wanderer
- '90s White House instrument
- 49 MD's order
- 15 Hovel
- 52 No. usually between zero and four
- 1979 Telenovela
- Faultfinder
- 59 End of the quip
- 5 soup
- 66 Brain seeker of film
- 68 Get up
- 69 Start the pot
- 70 Syrup brand
- 71 Pacific island nation
- 72 "Ouch!"
- 73 Like a Roman atrium

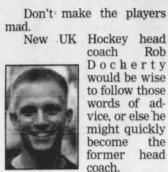
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- Puny pest
- Jacuzzi effect
- A mile a minute
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- 52 1900 Whoopi Goldberg Oscar film
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- 52 1900 Whoopi Goldberg Oscar film
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- 56 Try
- 58 Little lizard
- 60 Big ape
- 61 Troubling spots
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- 63 Do a pre-party chore
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- 67 Prevailed

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## Cool Cats lack accountability



**Chris DeLotell**  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Don't make the players mad. New UK Hockey head coach Rob Docherty would be wise to follow those words of advice or else he might quickly become the former head coach.

Mike Sosnowski learned the hard way. Sosnowski was fired over break, in the middle of his third season with the team. The Cool Cats (11-11-2) have underachieved this season after completing their first 20-win season in three years in 2004-05, especially considering the high profile recruits who have recently come to UK. The issue here, however, isn't that Sosnowski was fired. It's who fired him. And why.

UK Hockey is a club team, run by the players. Andy Bertram, the president of UK Hockey, is a sophomore forward for the Cool Cats. Bertram and the executive board, made up of players and UK Hockey GM Jan, pull the strings and make the decisions. Last month, the players decided they'd had enough of Sosnowski.

In the closing moments of a 10-4 victory over Southern Indiana on Dec. 9, things got out of hand. One UK player threw a Southern Indiana helmet into the stands. There

were fights and senseless penalties. After the game, Sosnowski chewed out his team and told them to decide if they wanted him around anymore to lead them.

They didn't. The players met and discussed their coach's fate. Some were upset about playing time. Others didn't like how practices were run. To a man, they all felt a reason to dislike Sosnowski. So they fired him.

Maybe the firing was justified. Maybe Sosnowski was in over his head and was unable to effectively run the team. But the issue here isn't that Sosnowski was fired. It's who fired him. And why.

Good leaders have the ability to get us to do things that might be outside our comfort zones. They have the authority to lead because they are in charge. Mike Sosnowski wasn't in charge. His players were. And that's a problem.

If players could fire the coach, how long would Bobby Knight have lasted at Indiana? Certainly not long enough to win 662 games and three national championships.

Was Mike Sosnowski as talented as Bobby Knight? Of course not. But the premise remains. Sometimes, coaches have to be mean. They have to be jerks in order to get the players and the team to play better. The structure of UK Hockey, and the willingness of the players to exercise their undeserved right to fire the coach, makes for a scary situation. The Cool Cats' ability to



**BRAD LUTTRELL | STAFF**  
Sophomore forward John North skates away from a Duke junior defender Alex Putterman Nov. 19 at the Lexington Ice Center.

hold Sosnowski's fate over his head undermined his authority and made it impossible for him to be a strong, effective leader.

Bertram said Sosnowski was fired in part because the team wasn't playing up to its potential.

Which means that the players fired Sosnowski because the players weren't playing well.

That's crazy. All Sosnowski could do was prepare the team and demand effort, intensity and work ethic. Once the games begin, it's on the players to play.

So whom do the players

have to blame? Themselves.

But it's human nature to blame someone else. It's human nature to overestimate our own abilities. I probably think I'm a better writer than I really am. UK's hockey players probably think they're better than they really are. When they weren't playing as well as they thought they could, they got mad. Not at themselves, but at their coach.

UK Hockey has missed out on some wins this season. But the Cool Cats are missing something far more important: accountability.

E-mail: cdelotell@kykernel.com

## Cats move on with a new coach

By Laura Helligan  
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

After play ended last semester, the UK hockey team decided the team, with an 11-11-2 record, wasn't as good as it should have been.

So on Dec. 14, 2005, citing a lack of practice intensity, lineup stability and overall discipline, the Cool Cats fired head coach Mike Sosnowski and gave assistant coach Rob Docherty the opportunity to step up and take over the job.

"Ever since last year, practices were dry and weak," said team president and sophomore forward Andy Bertram. "They weren't very difficult and we weren't pushing ourselves. The intensity in practice just wasn't there."

"We felt that this was our year to make some noise, but we thought some changes needed to be made," said senior forward Joe Obermeier. "(Coach Sosnowski) wasn't really listening to us. He'd change for a week, then go back to his old ways."

After an incident last semester during a game against Southern Indiana,

where UK players got into fights and had a lot of penalties Sosnowski termed "stupid," including throwing an opponent's helmet into the crowd, Sosnowski came in the locker room to voice his disappointment with the team. He told them they needed to sit down as a group to decide what they wanted next semester to look like.

"That incident and the things that Coach said after that win kind of put everything to the forefront," said junior goaltender Mike Kilbane. "He had done a lot of great work, but with the new talent that we have, we really needed a big change of pace for the team to really make the next step forward."

With the support of UK Hockey General Manager Ian Ward, the team talked to Docherty about his coaching move.

"Rob has a very extensive hockey background," Bertram said. "When Sosnowski gave him a chance to speak up, he was actually a pretty good coach."

Bertram also mentioned a game that Sosnowski had been forced to miss because of a furler.

"Rob led us to a 14-2 victory. He chewed us out when we weren't passing the puck, and things like that," Bertram said. "He had what we were looking for and he said he would be happy to take it over if something were to happen."

Even though it was difficult because

Docherty and Sosnowski were good friends, Bertram said that Docherty knew the team needed to go in a different direction, and that couldn't be done with Sosnowski at the helm.

"He was very willing to step up and give his shot at trying to make this work," Bertram said. "That is really comforting that he would do something like that. A lot of guys have even said that they're excited to play hockey again."

The Cool Cats had their first practice Wednesday under their new coach, although it was more of a tryout for a few new guys that came to practice and a warm-up for the other players who didn't have access to the ice while they were at home.

Because of that structure, Kilbane said that it's too early to tell how they are going to look for the rest of the season or if the change was beneficial. But the team is excited.

"There's a buzz now in the locker room that wasn't there when Sosnowski was there," Kilbane said. "Any time you make a serious dynamic change to a team, it's going to cause excitement. It was something that was old, and we got something that was new. Guys are almost refocused and there's an energy that's really been missing from this team."

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"I just hope people look at things in their complete context," Blanton said.

UK President Lee Todd and his administration have come under fire this school year since the university's latest enrollment statistics revealed a 40-percent drop in black freshman enrollment from last year. Blanton, who has not seen "Glory Road," said he personally had not seen any negative effects on the recruitment of black students through the movie or any legacy of racism that may or may not pervade the university.

Stricklin, who also has not seen the movie, said UK Athletics has no concerns with the movie, as long as its overall message is accurate with UK's history.

"If it's a fair representation, then I look forward to watching it," Stricklin said.

"To the dismay of many fans around the Bluegrass, the territory that comes with having a nationally recognized basketball team means that, in underdog stories, the Cats of ten are the establishment."

"I don't like to see UK lose either, both as an employee and graduate of this institution," Blanton said. "But in this case, it's a David-and-Goliath story."

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## Glory

Continued from page 1

That game only further fueled the debate about whether or not Rupp was a racist.

But UK spokesmen and former Wildcats said they hope the movie is fair and accurate, and that the segregationist allegations are unfounded.

"I think this may be a case of revisionist history, where somebody said 15 years later Coach Rupp said something, and he didn't say it," said Scott Stricklin, UK sports information director.

"I don't think — honestly in my heart — that Coach Rupp was a racist," Larry Conley, a guard on the 1966 team known as "Rupp's Runts," told The Kernel for its story on Rupp and "Glory Road" in March 2005. "I just don't think that."

"And as long as I live and have conversations with people about him, I don't mind standing up and stating my position."

Rupp's name, and thus his controversial legacy, are synonymous with UK. But Stricklin argued that UK has been progressive in that area, also.

"The SEC's first black foot-



**PHOTO COURTESY OF DUKE**  
The 1966 all-white Duke basketball team lost to UK in the Final Four and would have faced Texas Western in the title game. Duke would not integrate until the next season, when C.B. Claiborne signed with the Blue Devils.

ball player wore a Kentucky uniform," Stricklin said, referring to Nat Northington, who integrated the SEC in 1967 when he suited up for the Cats against Ole Miss. Another black player, Greg Page, was also recruited in 1969 by football coach Charlie Bradshaw, but died after suffering a neck injury during a practice. The campus apartments neighboring Commonwealth Stadium on Alumni Drive are named for Page.

"Back in the '50s, when the schools that won the SEC (basketball) Tournament got a bid to the NCAA Tournament, and they wouldn't go because they didn't want to play against black players, Kentucky was the school that

took their place," Stricklin said.

Reviews of the movie do not state that it carries connotations of racial prejudice either by Rupp or UK. "I hope folks keep in mind that it's a movie," said UK spokesman Jay Blanton. "In a lot of ways, UK was a leader in integration in the South in the 1960s."

Blanton noted the challenges UK faced, but also said that those challenges weren't different from a lot of other Southern schools.

"We've had challenges, but we've had a lot of successes, too," he said. "We currently have the highest graduation rate among African-Americans in the state."

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