

COMING TOMORROW: SG ELECTIONS: All you need to know to vote, including candidate profiles and coverage of referenda issues

THE Kentucky Kernel

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

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Polls lacking workers on eve of SG elections

Commons polling location has zero staffers

By Sean Rose
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

With the Student Government elections less than a day away, some campus poll locations are still lacking workers to operate them — including locations where no one has signed up to work any hours either day.

"Our biggest hurdle to jump is getting poll workers," said Katie Collins, chairwoman of the SG Election Board of Supervisors. She said it's hard to find students

interested in working who fulfill the requirement of not having any affiliations with any of the candidates.

"We have so many openings," she said.

Collins said the election board's five board members would try to pick up the slack, but some polls might have to close early as a result of low staffing.

"We don't want to close anything early," Collins said. "But if we're forced to because of lack of participation, we will."

The election board is in charge of running and monitoring the elections process, which will occur tomorrow and Thursday. That job includes maintaining polls and keeping candidates from campaigning too closely to the polling booths.

As of yesterday, Collins said the biggest gap in poll workers was at the Commons — where no one has signed up to work any of the seven hours of voting tomorrow or any of the six hours of voting Thursday. Students are paid \$10 an hour to man

the polls.

Overall, Collins said the preparation process is coming together but added that she's worried about whether the election will go smoothly.

"I'm not confident because you never know," Collins said. "It's kind of touch-and-go with all of this stuff."

Polls at the College of Agriculture and the College of Law are scheduled to be fully staffed, and Collins said it was easy to find workers for the White Hall Classroom Building and the

Student Center polling locations.

During last year's election, SG had to close one poll and limit the hours of several others due to low staffing, an issue that has plagued SG elections as of late.

Students wanting to work polls can go sign up in the SG office in the Student Center. Poll workers are paid positions. The meeting for workers is tonight at 8 in room 206 in the Student Center.

E-mail
rose@kykernel.com

Poll Worker Meeting

What: Informational meeting for poll workers
When: Tonight at 8
Where: Student Center room 206

Ky. schools don't plan to follow UK's union push

UK staff members say effort is still on to unionize over salary issues

By Darlusch Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Staff representatives at other state-funded universities in Kentucky said if UK were to unionize, it's unlikely that would lead them to follow suit and unionize as well.

In an article in The Kernel, Staff Sen. Paul Wilson said if UK's staff unionized, the staffs of other universities in the state would likely follow suit and "Suddenly, you'd be talking to every staff member in the state of Kentucky."

But staff leaders at other universities said their staffs would likely unionize only because of local issues and problems.

Recent talk of unionization has been circulating throughout UK after President Lee Todd proposed a two-tier salary pool raise system that gives faculty a 5.5 percent salary pool raise and staff a 3 percent salary pool raise. This also spawned cost of living concerns among this staff.

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Spring in the air and a spring in their step



Psychology senior Ryan DeLuca (left) and hospitality management and tourism junior David Reichelderfer take a run in the UK/Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Arboretum yesterday afternoon. The first day of spring was March 23, but you wouldn't have known it — the first few days had highs in the mid-40s, according to UK's Agricultural Weather Center. Yesterday was partly sunny with a high of 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

Fine Arts on verge of dropping degrees

By Brandon Cannada
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Two Fine Arts bachelor's degree programs — acting and design technology — are close to being suspended from UK's curriculum after a motion to that extent passed unanimously at the University Senate Council meeting yesterday.

No new applicants for either degree track will be accepted for the fall semester, although the 20 or so students currently in the program will be allowed to finish their degrees, said Nelson Fields, chairman of the Department of Theater.

"We feel that the focus of the programs are too narrow and that they don't give enough attention to other liberal arts," Fields said. "The trend over the past few years is that the Master of Fine

Arts degree programs are accepting less (Bachelor of Fine Arts) students and more (Bachelor of Arts) students."

In university paperwork filed to suspend the acting program, officials with the College of Fine Arts wrote that the program "is not living up to its potential" and that the "number of students enrolled and completing the program is not justifying faculty requirements."

As required in the suspension procedure, all professors filed to suspend the acting program, officials with the College of Fine Arts wrote that the program "is not living up to its potential" and that the "number of students enrolled and completing the program is not justifying faculty requirements."

The full University Senate is expected to vote on the measure in its April 10 meeting.

"We're not saying that it is an unvaluable degree, but a lot of our (Bachelor of Fine Arts) students want to pursue upper-level degrees and they

don't have as good of a chance of being accepted as their Bachelor of Arts counterparts," Fields said.

According to Fields, some students may be taking the Bachelor of Fine Arts programs in order to avoid some of the required courses that the Bachelor of Arts program demands.

"Our better students tend to opt for the (Bachelor of Arts) program," Fields said.

Acting senior Veronica Riggs said she doesn't think that's the case.

"People want to take classes more specific towards acting instead of design," Riggs said. "They don't think they will get enough time spent on acting if they take the (Bachelor of Arts) route."

Aaron William, also an acting student, expressed similar sentiments about the cur-

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Showcase to spotlight undergraduate research

By Adam Sichko
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Research. The word often carries connotations of erudite faculty with doctorate degrees or graduate students toiling away on nights and weekends, sacrificing their personal lives to advance their theses.

But next month, the spotlight will shine on undergraduate research work — and Friday is the deadline to apply for what's going to be a beneficial program, said Robert Tannenbaum, co-director of the UK Office of Experiences in Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, otherwise known as UReKA!

"Often times, when we talk at a university about research, we're talking about faculty members and grad students, but the fact is that an awful lot of very high quality research is being done by undergraduates, and thereby they're learning an enormous amount and many of them are participating in projects of the highest caliber," Tannenbaum said.

"At a research university, research starts from your first day on campus, if you choose to participate in it," he said.

UK's first-ever Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars takes place April 25, and the event is modeled after a similar one at the University of California-Irvine. The showcase will feature undergraduate work in a variety of forms, including publications, designs, performances and presentations.

"Research" is misleading," Tannenbaum said. "People start to think about scientists."

"What we mean about all these creative activities includes the stuff that goes on in art, performance music, design, philosophy, writing

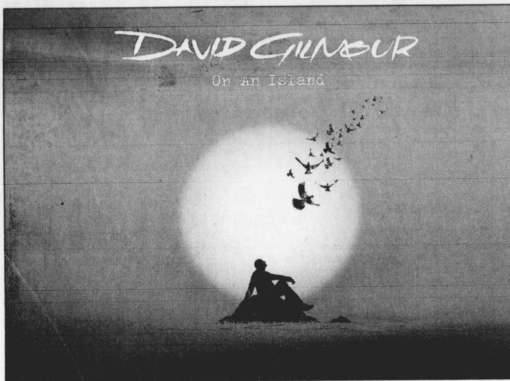
papers — everything in addition to the natural sciences and engineering," he said. "We don't want people ever to be misled by that word."

Tannenbaum said about 25 students have signed up to participate so far. Students can register for the event online, and their work ultimately will be published in a book of abstracts detailing the projects.

"It's been our experience (with other events) that there's a flood of registrants up to the very last minute and even beyond," Tannenbaum said. "Actually, I'm very impressed that we've

See Showcase on page 3

MUSIC REVIEW



Former Floyd guitarist revives refined sound on 'Island'

By Nathan Thacher
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Are you a fan of Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" or "Wish You Were Here"? Or a better question, do you have functioning ears and a history of drug use? If so (or even if you don't), you'll certainly enjoy the meandering lullabies found in David Gilmour's newest album, "On An Island."

Released March 7, "On An Island" is Gilmour's first full-length album of new material since "About Face" was released in 1984. It certainly seems that in his spare time, Gilmour has been mulling over and building upon those spacey, languid, helium-filled melodies he played so well on "Dark Side" that subsequently made Pink Floyd a household name the world over.

In fact, Gilmour's sound seems as if it's hardly changed or deteriorated at all — his guitar work on the album is as steady and atmospheric as it's ever been, and his soothing, airy voice still sounds perfectly intact. The familiar guitar-drum-bass combination is backed up by a long list of instruments (piano, saxophone, harmonica and cello, as well as a full orchestra) and an even longer list of contributors, including his wife, Polly Samson-Gilmour (vocals, piano), fellow Floyd alum Richard Wright (vocals, keyboards), David Crosby and Graham Nash (vocals) just to name a few of the many. This all creates a very Floyd-friendly feel, in a less hallucinatory, much more sedated way.

The album opens with "Castellorizon," an instrumental that features some looming, ominous symphonic arrangements played behind Gilmour's soaring, bitter-sweet guitar work. The next two songs, "On

An Island" and "The Blue," are aptly titled and rightly put next to one another: the cheery, soporific two-part vocal harmonies combined with sparse drum beats create feelings of warm, dreamy floatation. You can almost feel the sun on your shoulders and the sand in your toes.

But just like the buff, tan beach bully who kicks sand in your face while you're sun tanning, the next track, "Take A Breath," growls and stomps sharply, and it'll snap you right out of your slumber. Afterward, there is a pacified, saxophone-heavy interlude in "Red Sky At Night" that beckons you to fall back onto your beach towel. But the next track, "This Heaven," flares right back up with a trudging bass drum line and a bit of swaggering, bluesy guitar-bass picking.

And after that, there's nary a note or drum beat in the remainder of the album that will bother your rest. "Smile," another aptly-named track, is a lilting lullaby that's calm and reassuring enough to actually use as a lullaby, capable of taking down a sugar-rushed first-grader in mid leap. The notes are often sparse but long, and in no hurry at all, always welcoming and never surprising or very jarring.

In short, the sound of this album is wrapped in silk, stuffed with cherub down, and slathered with AstroGlide (see also: smooth). Gilmour seems confident and comfortable using his patented, time-tested formula of sonic Valium. "On An Island" is immediately accessible and endearing for initiates and Pink Floyd devotees alike.

E-mail
nthacher@kykernel.com

UK FCA takes it to the streets

By Charlie Denison
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

When it's Spring Break, what comes to mind? Parties, silliness, drunkenness, parties, Cancun, Florida parties, wildness, mayhem, and more parties. For many students, this is the case. For 12 UK students, Spring Break in Panama City, Fla., meant something else: going and serving. UK's Fellowship of Christian Athletes joined more than 400 people and four teams to communicate and connect with several spring break tourists to spread their message.

For Liz Mandell, a psychology senior, and Bailey Westerfield, a biology senior, Spring Break was different than usual. The program was called Beach Reach, founded in 1980 by Buddy Young, a student and part-time Baptist Student Ministry Director in Dallas. The program used to just take place in tents on South Padre Island, Texas. Now, the program has several groups involved in South Padre and Panama City. The program also uses vans to pick up spring breakers and share the Gospel to them, and even provides free pancake breakfasts for their guests.

On its first day, the group passed out van-ride cards to spring-breakers they came across, with numbers travelers could call for rides. When it was time to start driving, the calls came in, and they continued each night.

"It can be hard to be so bold," said Westerfield. "It can be hard for people to respect our views since faith is such a sensitive subject."

"I was surprised," said Mandell. "Over 90 percent of the people we picked up freely talked."

Westerfield said almost everyone they asked was a Christian, but as details poured in, there were plenty parts of the Bible they didn't agree with. However, relationships began to form — especially with five girls from Indiana University.

"One girl had parents who just divorced," said Mandell. "There was one night she broke down, and we were there for her."

Another member of FCA who went on the trip had parents who divorced as well and provided a shoulder to cry on for the IU girl.

"We dropped the girls off at a party while she was still crying," said Mandell. "They called us back about a half an hour later to go back."

Every day of the week, the girls would call up a van and even attend the pancake breakfasts. One day, the IU girls came over just to go to the beach with them.

"God's love is better than temporary satisfaction," said Mandell. "It's unconditional love."

Mandell did not want to misrepresent Christ's love. She considered herself a tool available to be used. Although she said it was hard not to be selfish sometimes, she remained open and "in it for the Lord."

"The entire week, there was only one straight rejection I faced," said Westerfield. "The majority even allowed us to pray for them in the van before they left."

Westerfield said she had an experience with a Methodist who believed all Catholics were going to Hell.

Thomas Baber, a Catholic and member of FCA who was in the van with the Methodist, was shocked.

"It's hard to know what to say sometimes," said Westerfield. "No one wants to hear that they are wrong. The highlight for me was getting close to someone sincere."

For the participants, the experience was not about condemning the partiers they helped — it was about getting to know them, listening to them and communicating with them.

"We weren't shoving the Gospel down their throats — we were just being ourselves," said Westerfield. "We were there to plant seeds of love. It was about openness and acceptance."

Inside the Laguna Beach Christian Retreat Center, where the group stayed, was a prayer room, within which Mandell said she had a hard time being able to focus.

"There was so much prayer," said Mandell. "People were screaming. It was so loud."

Westerfield said the prayer room was evidence that the groups were there to pray and that the prayers were heartfelt.

For Mandell, Westerfield, and 10 others from Lexington, Beach Reach was not just an experience for them, but it was a way of spreading love — a positive message of kindness and grace.

"Love what you love," said Mandell. "Not what loves you."

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For application information contact:
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TV JUMBLE

12-10-06 by David L. Hoyt

Use the clues to help you solve the TV Jumble. One letter is each square. Write the words.

PROSE Clue: Jack's landrover

GIYHWHWA Clue: Jon Baker's "I"

VRETLEAR Clue: Jonathan Smith, L.E.

CNNOUTU Clue: Kate Bradley's crossing

Clue: This host, who was born in London, England in 1944, was voted TV's "Best Anchor" by *Circumstance Magazine* five years in a row.

Answer to 10/05: JURILES Third FORDGE BRIDGES BREAKING

Bonus: This show, which debuted on TV in 2006, is based on a movie starring Christopher Walken.

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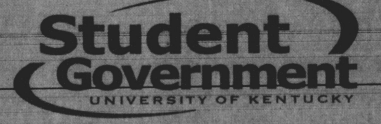
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Staff

Continued from page 1

In an e-mail to *The Kernel*, Todd said he preferred merit-based pay schemes over collective pay increases, such as those brought about by unionization.

"I think the value of a merit-based pay system is that it incentivizes — and rewards — individual achievement and merit," Todd said. "Across-the-board compensation schemes provide a disincentive for rewarding merit and individual achievement."

Bill Forman, chairman of the University of Louisville's Staff Senate, said UofL considered unionization about a year ago but the idea never took flight.

"I don't even know if we had a majority (in favor of unionizing) when we considered it," he said. "The majority would have to feel that unionizing would be beneficial to most staff."

That was also the case at Western Kentucky University.

"I can't speak for other universities," said James McCaslin, Staff Council Chairman at WKU. "I personally don't see that happening at Western."

One reason McCaslin doesn't see the WKU staff unionizing is because of the good relationship between the staff and the administration at WKU.

"We already have a good form of communication between staff and the administration

without bringing in a third party," McCaslin said.

For now, the costs are also outweighing the benefits, he said.

"I think it would more so divert resources that are already strained," he said. "I don't think that the benefit of a union would outweigh the price."

In the meantime, UK's administration said it stills prefer the current system of representation.

"Our preference is we continue to work through the Staff Senate," said UK Spokesman Jay Blanton. "They're the elected representatives of the staff."

Forman said he feels universities will unionize based on their own needs.

"Each situation is an individual situation based on the university, based between staff and administration and et cetera, and I think that would make the situation different for each one," Forman said.

But another UK staffer said UK's leading role in the state could carry the effect farther, but she also acknowledged that other factors are at play.

"I think it depends on each situation," said College of Law staffer Samantha Gange. "UK is a flagship institution. If people at the University of Kentucky would do it, people at other universities would be more apt to do it. They'll definitely look at it and they'll definitely talk about it."

"It does have potential," she said.

E-mail: dshafa@kykernel.com

Fine Arts

Continued from page 1

riculum.

"The (Bachelor of Fine Arts) classes are not too narrow, it's just not the right classes offered," he said. "We're not trying to take the easy way out by doing (Bachelor of Fine Arts) instead of (Bachelor of Arts); we just want to learn more about acting than things like scene design."

"This is happening because of a lack of support from the university," William

added.

In a memo to Fields, Robert Shay, dean of the College of Fine Arts, writes that the time the program is suspended will be used to rewrite the Bachelor of Arts curriculum and make a final decision as to whether or not the suspension will be permanent.

"We did this with the well-being of the students in mind," Fields said. "We want all of our students to be ready for the professional world, and the (Bachelor of Fine Arts) programs are just not getting that done."

E-mail: news@kykernel.com

Showcase

Continued from page 1

gotten 25 already.

"We're also hoping that a number of students who do projects in their courses or for their departments will also see fit to display those at the showcase," he said.

The benefits of participating are clear, Tannenbaum said.

"One benefit of course is the satisfaction, the personal intellectual reward of

participating in and doing this kind of scholarly activity," he said. "This is the equivalent of a publication — something one can put on a resume. That sets you apart from a large number of peers when applying for a job or a graduate school."

"You want to be set apart from your peers; you really want to be able to show off what you're doing," he said.

E-mail: asichko@kykernel.com

Cocaine permeates sewage in Virginia

By Bill Turque
THE WASHINGTON POST

If government studies are a reliable guide, about 25,000 residents of Fairfax County, Va. — 2.5 percent of its population — have used cocaine in the past year. The same data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health suggest that about 9,000 have partaken within the past 30 days.

Those estimates, based on personal and computer-assisted interviews, rely almost completely on the candor of the respondents. The Bush administration, hoping to someday broaden the government's knowledge of illegal drug use, is probing the mysteries of Fairfax's sewage for a clearer picture.

Earlier this month, the county agreed to participate in a White House pilot program to analyze wastewater from communities throughout the Potomac River Basin for the urinary byproducts of cocaine.

"It's a very strange request," Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald E. Connolly, Democrat, said of the White House program. "We're ready to do anything and everything we can do to eliminate illicit drug use. But I'd want to know a lot more about what this will actually lead to."

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy said it is not seeking to single out specific localities. It also is premature, officials said, to conclude that levels of metabolized cocaine in sewage of-

fer a more accurate index of consumption than traditional survey research.

But David Murray, special assistant to national drug czar John P. Walters, said wastewater testing, which has been tried in Europe, "certainly has that potential."

"We think it will be very, very useful," Murray said.

County workers collected five days' worth of water samples between March 13 and March 17 at the pollution control plant in Lorton, Va., according to a March 20 memo from County Executive Anthony H. Griffin to the Board of Supervisors.

The plant, which processes about 67 million gallons of sewage a day, takes in commercial and residential waste from about half the

county, including Fairfax City, Vienna and Fort Belvoir.

The samples, which totaled about 500 milliliters, were shipped to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Rockville, Md., where they will be analyzed for traces of benzoylecgonine, the main urinary metabolite byproduct of cocaine.

Critics of the administration's drug policies said the effort seemed harmless enough but also wondered what it would add up to.

"It can't hurt to check," said Bill Piper, director of national affairs for the Drug Policy Alliance, a nonprofit group committed to ending the federal government's war on drugs. "I'm skeptical that it can be a useful gauge for policy analysis."


The wastewater research had

its genesis in Europe. Last year, scientists of the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research in Milan tested the waters of the Po River in northern Italy, to surprising results. According to the Times of London, they concluded that the Po carried the equivalent of about four kilograms of cocaine and estimated that the 1.4 million young adults living in the Po River Basin were consuming about 40,000 doses a day, more than twice the existing national estimates.

To confirm the findings, the researchers studied wastewater from smaller cities in other regions of the country, including Sardinia. After allowing for the difference between water from the Po and undiluted sewage, they said that the results were similar.

“It can't hurt to check. I'm skeptical that it can be a useful gauge for policy analysis.”

— Bill Piper, director of national affairs, Drug Policy Alliance.



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Tuesday 28 th	Wednesday 29 th	Thursday 30 th	Friday 31 st	Saturday 1 st	Sunday 2 nd
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheap Seat Tuesdays presents The Family Stone, 8:00 PM, Worship Theatre • BINGO!, 7:00 PM, STUDENT CENTER CATS DEN • *Karyotypes: The Myths and Mutations of Third World Feminism, 4:00 PM, Young Library Auditorium • Fencing Club Practice, 8:00 PM, Buell Armory • Alpha Phi Omega Active Meeting, 7:30 PM, Student Center, Room 359 • Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), 7:30 PM, student center rm. 357 • "Kentucky Harvest "One Day, One Dollar," Campaign, 11:00 AM, • Student Center Patio • College Democrats Weekly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Rm. 211 Student Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James W. Stuckert Career Center Drop-In Hours, 3:00 PM, James W. Stuckert Career Center 408 Rose Street • Comedy Caravan, 8:00 PM, Student Center Cats Den • Take Back the Night 2006, 6:00 PM, In front of Memorial Coliseum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), 7:30 PM, student center rm. 357 • Fencing Club Practice, 8:00 PM, Buell Armory • Phi Alpha Delta (pre-law) meeting, 6:00 PM, Student Center Room 245 • American History X, 10:00 PM, Center Theater in the Student Center • Tony Rice & Peter Rowan in Concert, 7:30 PM, Singletary Center for the Arts • Employer Panel: Jobs in Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies (Pre-registration is required), 3:30 PM, 408 Rose St • Our Drug Laws — the Solution or the Problem?, 7:00 PM, Room A, Lexington Public Library, Downtown • RSA General Assembly Meetings, 5:30 PM, 359 Student Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James W. Stuckert Career Center Drop-In Hours, 3:00 PM, James W. Stuckert Career Center 408 Rose Street • Poetry Reading, 7:30 PM, 230 Student Center • iCF Free Dinner and Fellowship, 7:00 PM, CSF Building (across from Cooperstown Apt.) • A Night at the Opera, 10:00 PM, Worship Theater in the Student Center 	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">Only 5 Weeks Until Summer!</p>  <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">GO CATS!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKUFO, 10:00 PM, Seaton Field

FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Brooks: contact drills stay; jobs aren't safe

By Chris Johnson
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Injuries were the rule, not the exception, for the UK football team last season.

The Cats finished 3-8 overall and 2-6 in the Southeastern Conference, with the blame for many of the losses being placed on a wealth of injuries that led to 27 Wildcats undergoing operations on by the end of the season.

Nonetheless, head coach Rich Brooks said at his pre-spring practice press conference yesterday that he's not going to change practice methods to protect players.

"Most of our injuries happened in games," Brooks said. "Only a few were in practice."

In order for UK to be competitive this season and in the future, contact drills will have to be a part of the team's practices, Brooks said.

"Football isn't played in

the SEC in shorts on Saturdays," he said.

One of the major defensive setbacks to the 2005 team was the torn anterior cruciate ligament suffered by SI.com All-America freshman linebacker Braxton Kelley. Brooks said Kelley's progress was encouraging.

"He's working on the last 5 percent of range of motion on that knee," the coach said. "He's jogging, running and rehabilitating."

"He certainly is not going to have any contact," Brooks said.

Little's job not safe

UK junior-to-be tailback Rafael Little grew into a starting role last season — but that apparently did little to cement a permanent starting position.

Little gained 1,045 yards on the ground and scored nine touchdowns, led UK with 46 receptions for 449 yards and added 24 kickoff

and punt returns for 488 yards and a score. He earned first-team SEC honors as an all-purpose back from The Associated Press, and second-team honors as a running back from the SEC coaches.

But he could find himself out of a starting job when UK kicks off its 2006 season Sept. 2 at Louisville.

Brooks mentioned at the end of last season that no starting job was safe just because of past performances. He continued that train of thought yesterday and made it a point to include Little.

Sophomore-to-be Tony Dixon, who opened the door for Little after missing last season because of a broken foot in his leg, is healthy and eager to get back on the field, Brooks said.

"It's almost like he's on a mission," Brooks said of Dixon. "He was starting ahead of that guy who was fifth in the nation in all-purpose yards last year."

Brooks added that Little had run a 4:37-second 40-yard dash recently, while Dixon turned in a 4:41.

That placed the backs second and third among UK's tailback-listed players; sophomore-to-be Alfonso Smith, UK's Scout Team Player of the Year in 2005, ran a 4:33.

"I'm excited that at tailback, we've got a junior, a sophomore and two redshirt freshmen competing," Brooks said.

Thin ranks at receiver

Brooks said the thinnest position at the start of spring practice is wide receiver. Scott Mitchell and Glenn Holt will graduate, meaning that two of UK's top four wideouts from last season are gone. Little was the team's leading receiver.

Junior-to-be Keenan Burton, the only returning receiver of the top four, is recovering from an injured foot and will miss all of spring practice.

"When you take Keenan Burton out of the mix, Dicky Lyons is healthy, but DeMor-

eo Ford will miss a couple of weeks," Brooks said.

Junior-to-be Joe Joe Brown and John Logan were also listed as part of the possible wide receiver rotation, and Brooks said as many as eight members of the incoming freshman class could get significant playing time in the fall.

"The main thing we want to get out of this spring is to identify who can play," Brooks said.

Brooks didn't have much to say regarding the class as a whole or the members in it, because many are finishing up their high school academic careers before reporting to UK.

QB up for grabs

Brooks listed this season's race for the starting quarterback position as the "best competition since I've been here."

Junior-to-be Andre Woodson, the incumbent, is facing challenges from sophomore-to-be Curtis Pulley and grayshirt freshman Will Fidler, who enrolled in classes at UK in January and has been working out with the team.

"Andre Woodson's got a lot of experience, but it's clear what he needs to improve on ... ball security, a quicker release and eliminating bad plays," Brooks said.

Brooks noted that during the spring and summer last season, Woodson didn't face any contact because of a nagging knee injury. He directly correlated Woodson's lack of contact to the three fumbles he had in the season-opening loss to UofL.

But non-contact won't happen this year, Brooks said.

"He will get hit if he doesn't get rid of the ball," he said. "He has to speed up his decision-making."

Brooks said Pulley had improved his throwing ability more dramatically, and more quickly, than anyone else he had ever worked with.

On Fidler, Brooks said,

"He has worked as hard as anybody has in any position" in the weight room.

Defense's job clear

Brooks said the entire defense has already listed its goals for the 2006 campaign.

"We have to be better at run-stopping this year," Brooks said. "Our third-down defense was atrocious last year; our run defense was atrocious last year."

UK finished last season ranked No. 102 (out of 117 teams) in the nation in run defense, allowing 196.3 yards per game. They finished 105th in the nation in third-down defense, allowing first downs 45.1 percent of the time.

Entire O-line back — but that doesn't mean anything

UK is awaiting the word from the NCAA on whether senior center Matt McCutchan will be given a sixth season of eligibility. McCutchan is applying based on

an injury-plagued season at the Naval Academy, the school he transferred from to attend UK.

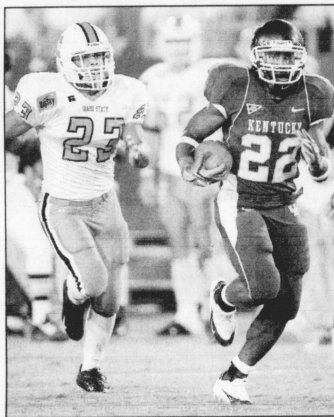
If McCutchan returns, UK will retain all five of its starting offensive linemen from last season.

Not that that means they'll play this season, Brooks said. Much like Little, their jobs are up for grabs as well.

And, Brooks said, the line's hold on its jobs are much more tenuous than Little's.

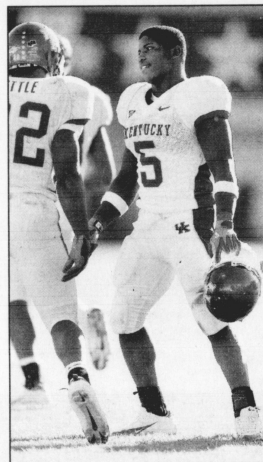
"I'd be shocked if all five starters from last year were the starters this year," Brooks said. When asked to elaborate, he explained that "we've got people who will push them out of jobs, or (push them to) be a hell of a lot better football players."

Chris Johnson covers UK football for the Kernel. This article contains his observations and opinions. E-mail: cjohnson@kykernel.com



KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

Sophomore tailback Rafael Little carries the ball during UK's win over Idaho State Sept. 11. Brooks said Little would have to earn his starting job.



Former UK tailback Arriess Beach is headed to an individual workout in front of professional scouts this week. Beach compiled 951 yards and 14 touchdowns in four years at UK. He scored six touchdowns last season, primarily in short-yardage situations. According to Brooks, Beach recently ran a sub-4.5 40-yard dash, raising the interest of NFL scouts. KEITH SMILEY | STAFF

SPORTS BRIEFS

Gymnastics awarded NCAA regional bid

Despite finishing last at the stacked Southeastern Conference championships last weekend, No. 20 UK (14-12) was named the No. 4 seed in the NCAA Championship's Central Regional. The Cats must finish in the top two of the regional to advance to what would be their first-ever NCAA gymnastics tournament finals. The top seed in the regional is Oklahoma, followed by regional host Louisiana State. Penn State, Michigan State and Ohio State are also participating.

The top two individual competitors, if not members of an already advancing team, will also advance to the finals, to be held April 20-22 in Corvallis, Ore., on the campus of Oregon State.

Baseball individual honors roll in; team achieves top-20 status

UK sophomore outfielder

Antone DeJesus was named SEC Player of the Week yesterday after leading the Cats to a weekend series win over then-No. 12 Tennessee.

DeJesus compiled a .667 on-base percentage as UK's leadoff hitter and scored 10 runs during the course of the week, including four in a mid-week victory over Xavier.

UK (20-5, 4-2 SEC) entered the Baseball America poll at No. 20 this week. The Cats also moved up five spots in the Collegiate Baseball poll, from No. 26 to No. 21.

Men's golf drops to 11th at Hootie

UK shot a 295 yesterday to drop from fifth to 11th at the Hootie at Bulls Bay Collegiate Invitational Tournament.

The Cats were fifth after the first day's action, with a 282.

Wake Forest leads the tournament after firing a 587.

Webb Simpson leads the tournament with a total of 133 (88-65).

Freshmen Andrew Winings and Dan Woltman lead the Cats at 145.

The tournament wraps up today. UK is the defending champion.

Women's golf sixth

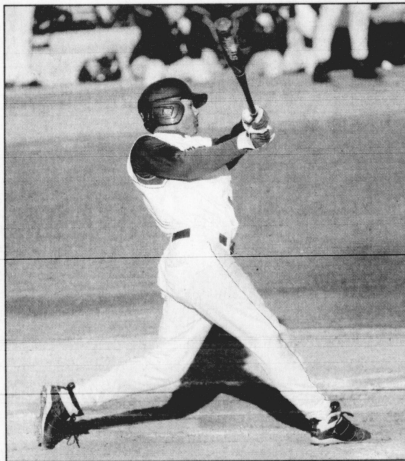
UK sophomore Beth Felts shot a two-over-par 146 yesterday to lead the Cats after the first day of the Lady Seahawk Invitational hosted by UNC-Wilmington.

The golfers each played two rounds yesterday. Felts is tied for second place, one shot behind Birmingham Southern's Emily Klein.

Western Carolina leads the event with a two-round total of 600. UK is sixth, one shot behind East Tennessee State.

Senior Ali Kicklighter, who has led the Cats in three of their eight tournaments this year, is tied for 15th with a two-round total of 152.

COMPILED FROM UK ATHLETICS REPORTS



Sophomore outfielder Antone DeJesus, UK's leadoff hitter, was the third Cat in the past four weeks to be named SEC Player of the Week. DeJesus scored 10 runs in UK's four games last week and had an on-base percentage of .667. Ryan Strieby was named Player of the Week last week, and Sean Coughlin was crowned the week of March 6.

ANDREW HUGHES | STAFF

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IN OUR OPINION

Our choice for SG: Preston Worley

Student Government needs to be an advocate for the student body — to come up with solutions to the problems students face and push hard for university administrators and trustees to adopt those plans. This editorial board thinks Preston Worley is the candidate who will best represent students' interests, and so we endorse his candidacy for SG president.

This year, there hasn't been much disagreement among presidential candidates about what the important issues are — women's safety and the meal plan have dominated the agenda. Distinguishing among candidates, therefore, isn't a matter of who has the right priorities so much as who has the best solutions to the commonly acknowledged problems. And it was clear from our meetings with the three presidential candidates that Worley has the most developed solutions to these issues and others.

Worley and his running mate, Scott McIntosh, have what we think is the best solution to the meal-plan issue. Rather than simply return to last year's declining-balance system — which wouldn't solve the problem of lacking food quality — they want to push UK to outsource its dining-service operations to Aramark, a company that handles food for hundreds of other universities (including several others in Kentucky).

We understand that having a good plan is no guarantee of actually accomplishing it, especially when it's a matter of outside SG's formal jurisdiction (and one that would be costly in the short term). But without a solution that's already been developed, SG's next president certainly won't be able to make progress on the meal plan — with just one short year in office, the president needs to be able to hit the ground running. Worley is the most able of our three candidates to do that.

On women's safety, Worley recognizes the real problem: acquaintance crimes (such as date rape), which make up the vast majority of cases of victimization of women at UK. Unfortunately, there are no simple solutions like trimming bushes or installing lights when it comes to crimes that occur in private residences. But having the right focus is a necessary first step, and Worley's proposed solution — the formation of "safety teams" that would raise the issue of acquaintance crime and educate students about dangerous situations — would help set the foundation for tackling this difficult problem.

Beyond these two big issues, Worley impressed us with his solutions to other problems on campus. In regard to diversity, he said

he would have SG cosponsor the freshman summer programs for minority students, which bring in dozens of students of various backgrounds who may have otherwise chosen other schools.

And when asked how he would combat the impression that the push for "top 20 by 2020" is leaving current students behind, Worley said he would push UK to look at bringing up its scores on the National Survey of Student Engagement, which measures the "campus climate" at colleges and universities.

Of course, getting anything done will require the next president to have the right personal skills — enough finesse to get his foot in the door of administrators and enough wherewithal to stand up for students without capitulating. Although these things cannot be judged easily, our own dealings with the candidates left us convinced that Worley is the best candidate on this score. He doesn't seem likely to get friendly with administrators just to be able to name-drop later, but he doesn't give off the impression that he would completely alienate them with a grating communication style either.

Finally, Worley has found a strong running mate in McIntosh, and that makes a difference. It was clear from our meeting with them that McIntosh has been involved in developing the campaign's solutions to campus problems, especially the meal plan. Having two people who are prepared to work on the issues will make next year's SG executive branch doubly effective.

Moreover, McIntosh will be a junior next year — which means that if he decides to run for president (which, as a current vice-presidential candidate, he's presumably likely to do), he will have to own up to the success or failure of Worley's presidency. That will give the two of them an incentive not to be "lame ducks" who lose interest in advocating for students because they don't need to win reelection.

Altogether, we think this year's slate of candidates is much stronger than last year's, and we are confident that whoever wins will do a better job of advocating for students than current president Becky Ellingsworth has done. But in areas where the other two candidates were lacking, Worley kept coming up strong, with his detailed plans for numerous issues and the skills to get those plans accomplished.

Without a doubt, students will be doing themselves a favor by voting for Worley tomorrow and Thursday.



CHRIS STEWART, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kernel story misrepresented volunteers

For Spring Break this year, thousands of college students from across the country traveled south for New Orleans' infamous Mardi Gras parades and Bourbon Street parties. This year, however, a few students chose to make a difference in the lives of others while they were in New Orleans, a cause that normally would be greatly respected. As a result, Chris Miles was gracious enough to write an article about their trip in *The Kernel's* March 22 edition.

It seems such a shame that his words misconstrued students' hearts so greatly. Many of the students quoted were taken vastly out of context, so much so that passages about loving the experience despite the hardships were given a complaining, almost "whiny" portrayal.

Students' training for this trip informed them that conditions would be rough, floors would be hard (and possibly bare), and homes would be destroyed on a magnitude unimaginable — and such was the case. Two-story houses had 7-month-old water lines at the tops of the second floors' door-frames, warehouses packed in students' sleeping cots so that students had exactly 12 square feet to their name, and showers were cold and preceded by lines between 3 minutes and 3 hours long. Still, the overwhelming response to the needs of the New Orleans and Plaquemine's Parish communities filled students' hearts with warmth and changed the lives of both the volunteers and the volunteered-for.

According to Rick Amos with usmc.org, these UK students who went were part of a historical landmark, as over 4,000 students headed into New Orleans and dispersed across Louisiana to eventually gut and clean over 800 homes, some schools, a few churches, and even one entire grocery store — where, yes, all the 7-month old food was still rotting.

And the students loved every moment of the experience. They know they made a difference in many lives, and I know their lives are different now, because mine was one of them.

Even more admirable than this, however, is that many of these same students plan to return and volunteer more help.

It's just too bad Chris Miles didn't portray that instead.

DAVID REMPFER
computer science freshman

Lack of late-night spots forces illegal parking

Is it illegal to park on campus at 2 a.m.? I feel like this is some unwritten law, because whenever I come back to the dorms after going out one night, there is not a single open parking spot in South Campus R-3 lot. Absolutely nowhere.

After relentlessly searching the lot several times for a spot, I am ultimately forced to park illegally, dreading the \$25 ticket I know I will be met with the next day. What can I do about it? Nothing. You think my one complaint to UK Parking Services is going to matter all that much compared with the dozens of complaints I'm sure it's bombarded with everyday? Hardly.

I've had unsuspecting witnesses (my friends) ride along in the passenger seat, horrified at the complete nonexistence of open spots. "What are you going to do?" they rightfully ask. I have no answer. There is no answer. I just park illegally and hope for the best. Sometimes I am blessed with a ticketless windshield the next day. Sometimes...

Walking up and seeing the little manila envelope neatly tucked under the windshield wiper unleashes one of the worst feelings ever. Especially when it's undeserved.

JAIME LAZICH
journalism freshman

What does 'Jackass' have to do with church burnings? Ask a lazy journalist

Ah, the Lexington Herald-Leader Opinions page. Always good for a laugh. Or birdcage lining.



Jonathan Meador
KERNEL COLUMNIST

Since most of you degenerates spend the better part of Sunday recovering from the TV — on prepackaged hot-button issues.

"These kids were born with every advantage and privilege but with no idea what to do with them," Israel writes, "creating a 'Jackass' nation populated by those who think it is their right and responsibility to destroy property and brutalize others for kicks."

Concludes Israel: "That thinking is cemented by a steady stream of extreme prank entertainment feeding an apparent disaffected boredom."

While I hate TV as much as the next pretentious jerk, I sincerely doubt the "extreme prank entertainment" of "Punk'd" will turn John Q. Public into a suburban Pot Pot. If one looks at the history of violence, more people have been killed by the words of the Bible and the Koran than by the scripted-anarchism of "Beavis &

Butthead" and "Jackass."

This same brand of logic is of the kind that blames "violent video games" for the Columbine massacre and justifies the Iraq war via "freedom and democracy."

"Small wonder a generation raised on TV shows that celebrate crass and anti-social behavior gets its kicks burning churches," Israel blubbers. "The modern day Dennis the Menace doesn't just annoy Mr. Wilson, he burns down his house."

I had to stop reading at this point because I was laughing so hard I started vomiting uncontrollably, rendering much of the newspaper illegible. Not that it mattered.

Curiously, Israel defends rap music, which he believes is "too cinematic and over-the-top for most young people to take seriously."

proving my theory that the slayings of Biggie and Tupac were directly inspired by the gritty, realistic violence of "Star Trek: The Next Generation." For his crimes against humanity Patrick Stewart should be stripped of his knighthood and stoned to death by the Wu-Tang Clan (Just don't show it on TV; the youths might get some bad ideas.)

Yet his brilliance crescendos when arrives at his most egregious point. "Black kids," he writes, "get thrown into juvenile detention or sent to boot camps," whereas white kids "are likely to get light bail, probation, a groovy mug shot and bragging rights."

Mr. Israel, the Pulitzer awaits thee!

While sentencing for blacks is usually more severe than for whites when charged with similar crimes, it is an injustice that can be corrected only by serious, patient discourse, not the kind of half-baked, racially paranoid rhetoric that Israel loves as much as a fat kid loves cake (to paraphrase the "over-the-top" 50 Cent).

I fail to understand what racism has to do with the facts of this case, which, according to numerous AP reports, cite no evidence of "hate crimes" and attribute the arson to garden-variety drunken stupidity.

Yet the answer to Crazy White Boy Syndrome, I think, doesn't lie with any one issue in particular, and I am extremely wary of people like Israel who claim otherwise: Usually they have some kind

of cheap axe to grind, and in so doing confuse the issue for everyone, which makes me want to buy an Uzi and do bad things with it.

No one wonders why these boys were "bored" in the first place. No asks why young people binge drink in the first place, either. These kinds of things don't get one incensed as do vapid, catch-all slogans like *hate crime, media violence, "Jackass" nation*, et al.

I've noticed that a common denominator in these types of crimes is one of existential crisis, yet all we can come up with to explain the malvolent discontent of young white America is Johnny Knoxville's head on a pike?

That is simply not good enough to stop the next school from being shot up, the next church being burned, the next youth wasted.

To stop relying on convenient politicized scapegoats will be hard but necessary if we are to study the uniquely American phenomenon of "going postal" in a meaningful way, and until our journalists can outgrow their intellectual sloth, I'm afraid our best answer is nothing more than birdcage lining.

Jonathan Meador is a journalism junior. E-mail jmeador@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*.

Online Poll Question

Which Student Government presidential candidate do you plan to vote for?

Andy Bates
Jonah Brown
Preston Worley

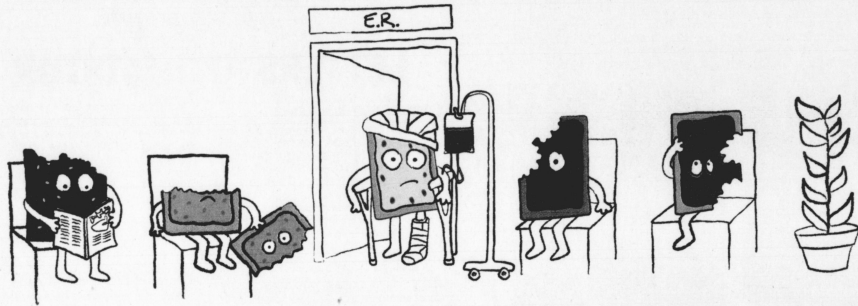
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