

KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 37 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Education leaders say budget cuts will undo progress

By Jill Laster
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President Lee Todd and other leaders of Kentucky's major higher education institutions declined in a letter Friday to give specific figures requested by Gov. Steve Beshear for how an additional 12 percent cut in state funding would affect public universities.

While the letter does not give a detailed explanation of where the cuts would come from, it does say a smaller budget would heavily impact higher education institutions like UK and the state as a whole.

"For lack of sufficient fuel, our state's best economic engine will slip back down the hill just as it was approaching the steeper slopes near the peak," the letter says, "sliding off the track and causing immeasurable damage through program cutbacks, enrollment caps, tuition rollups, staff and faculty layoffs, deferred maintenance and financial aid shortfalls."

A budget cut of 12 percent next year, on top of this year's 3 percent cut, would result in a total loss of about \$50 million for UK, which would require a tuition increase of around 30 percent to offset, Todd said in an interview Friday.

"We would not do that," Blanton said. "We know we can't do that." Where exactly a 12 percent cut would come from will not be presented, Todd said, in part because the state legislature has not yet decided how much funding to give higher education.

State rep. challenges rising cost of textbooks

By Jennifer Graham
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For most students, spending hundreds of dollars on textbooks is not uncommon. But while students are digging deep into their pockets this semester, some outsiders are trying to lower textbook costs for them.

State Rep. Rick Nelson, D-Middlesboro, has filed a bill that proposes a study on textbook prices in Kentucky.

"I believe students are, on average, spending over \$500 a semester on textbooks," Nelson said. "We hope to find out why they are spending that much through the study."

By midyear, the study would show why books are priced so high, Nelson said.

"Two plus two is four. It will be four next year too, so why are new books required so frequently?"

RICK NELSON
State Rep.,
D-Middlesboro

Students would just be required to purchase a passcode to access the information," Nelson said.

He would also like for professors to tell students when a book will be discontinued for the course, so they have a fair warning.

"We know that making everything online won't happen for a while, so we are focusing on lowering costs for students," Nelson said.

The private sector is also trying to aid in lowering the amount of money students spend on textbooks.

Bigwords.com, a free price-comparison Web site, allows buyers to enter the ISBN, author or name of the textbook they are looking for and then searches various online bookstores for the cheapest price on that book.

"The difference in price between online and campus bookstores is night and day," said Jeff Sherwood, Bigwords.com's CEO. "We find savings of 40 to 60 percent pretty much every time."

"There are hundreds of online vendors, so it's a buyer's market," he said.

The online textbook vendors compiled on Bigwords.com include Amazon.com, Half.com and AbeBooks.com.

Students at UK can also take advantage of UK BookExchange (www.ukbookexchange.com), which serves 11 different schools and allows students to post their used books online for the price they want from them.

While online purchasing of textbooks may be cheaper than buying in campus bookstores, some believe it is not the best way to go.

"I believe the biggest concern with buying online is just buyers beware," said Carol Behr, the general manager of Kennedy Bookstore. "There may be hidden shipping costs, and there may be problems with timeliness, especially if

See Books on page 3

UK 79, VANDERBILT 73 (2OT)



Members of the men's basketball team celebrate during the final seconds of the second overtime period on Saturday. The Cats upset No. 12 Vanderbilt 79-73 in two overtimes at Rupp Arena, snapping their four-game losing streak to the Commodores.

A CLEAN SLATE

UK opens league play with win over Vandy

By Travis Waldron
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Ramel Bradley dropped the basketball, turned toward the crowd and yelled, "Yeah, baby!" He slapped hands with a UK manager and headed to midcourt, where his teammates celebrated as the clock struck zero.

It took two overtimes and a valiant effort, but the senior guard and his Cats pulled out a 79-73 win over unbeaten No. 12 Vanderbilt on Saturday in front of 23,695 fans at Rupp Arena. The win snapped UK's 11-game losing streak against ranked teams.

For Bradley, his post-game celebration was an outpouring of emotion built up over weeks, if not months, of frustration mounted on the Cats' 6-7 start to the season.

"Big games like this, the emotions are running high, and you can't let the emotions get the best of you during the game," Bradley said. "We had the win at the end there, and I had to just let it out."

Bradley scored eight straight points for UK (7-7, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) midway through the second half, when Vandy (16-1, 1-1 SEC) closed what was a 16-point

UK lead to just four. Bradley then sealed the win with a step-back jump shot that gave the Cats a 77-73 lead with less than a minute to play in the final overtime period.

"If I had to choose anybody on the team to have the ball in their hands with a couple seconds left in the game, it'd be Ramel," sophomore forward Perry Stevenson said. "He's just smart about it. He knows what to do and when to do it."

It was another senior — guard Joe Crawford — who gave the Cats the lead for good. After Vanderbilt center A.J. Ogilvy hit a free throw to give the Commodores a 73-72 lead with 4:44 to play in the second overtime, Crawford drove into the lane and banked a shot off the glass. The shot rolled around the rim and appeared to be falling off when Ogilvy tapped it off. Ogilvy was whistled for goaltending, UK got the points, and Vandy never scored again.

The Cats looked like they were going to run away with the game in the second half.

UK built a 16-point lead behind a 9-1 run with 14:20 to play in the second half, but Vanderbilt charged back, aided by a 5-1 UK

See Basketball on page 3

Cats finally have reason to celebrate

With Saturday's win over Vanderbilt, UK won its eighth national basketball championship.

OK, maybe not. But it certainly looked like it.

Ramel Bradley and Patrick Patterson were screaming at the resuscitated Rupp Arena crowd. Patterson's parents, Buster Jr. and Tywana, made their way to the floor to celebrate with an array of fist-pumps and high-fives. Perry Stevenson was mobbed at mid-court by the UK reserves for his back-breaking steal in the second overtime.

That was the scene after UK defeated the Commodores 79-73 in double overtime Saturday afternoon. A national championship wasn't really at stake, but the fans, coaches, players and parents of players had many reasons to celebrate.

They celebrated so passionately because of the way the season started. They celebrated with so much enthusiasm because the game was so back-and-forth and competitive.

See Smith on page 6



JONATHAN SMITH
UK kernel columnist

Mayor seeks UK's help for vision of Lexington in 2040

By Erica Mitchell
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Mayor Jim Newberry says he has a vision for Lexington's future community, and he wants students and other city residents to help him work toward achieving it by 2040.

A year ago, the mayor and the Urban County Council decided that a shared community vision and a common sense of direction was one of the six top goals for the city, according to a news release. Destination 2040 is de-

signed to help reach that vision. "We hope to involve as many citizens as possible in crafting a shared dream for our community, and ultimately in making that dream a reality," Newberry said.

Other cities, such as Owensboro, Ky., have worked on similar projects, and it's not an uncommon thing, said Susan Straub, Newberry's communications director. However, Lexington did not model Destination 2040 after another city's plan, she said.

The project is organized around a

root question: How will Lexington protect all that it values while continuing to grow as a community?

To answer that question, citizens will engage in discussions and meetings, which have been scheduled throughout the next year, according to the news release. The project will focus on four aspects of community life: physical growth, economic expansion, cultural creativity, and improvements in housing, medical care, education and safety.

About 26 organizations, including

UK, have made an advance commitment to participate in the project. The schedule for the project anticipates the community to start taking action in August based on what is discussed at the meetings between now and then.

Students might be able to work with Destination 2040 through UK courses that concern community life and government issues, said Charlie Boland, who is coordinating the project.

See Destination on page 3

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HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is a 7 — Don't be dissuaded by an authority figure who thinks you can't accomplish your goal. This is actually a test to see if you're strong enough to persist. You can, and you will.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 6 — It's not a very good day to travel, but it's pretty good for business. Follow through and make deals over the phone, mail or e-mail instead. You could get used to this.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 7 — Friends come to your rescue, just in the nick of time. They can accomplish more in a minute than you have in many years, in their areas of expertise. Give them

abundant thanks.
Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 7 — A rather demanding older person has a new assignment for you. Don't be afraid, you can rise to the challenge. Push yourself past your old limits.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is a 7 — OK, the coast is clear again. Everything is forgiven. Kiss and make up and promise to never do foolish things again. It's impossible, of course, but it's nice to hear. With practice, it gets easier.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — Plans seem to be stymied by insufficient funds. Don't give up, if this is an important purchase. Save, scrimp, take on an extra job. Toys are not included in this authorization.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 7 — Your partner, at first, doesn't go along with a household suggestion. Don't be dismayed, a compromise can be found. Try out new ideas until something clicks.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 6 — The work is intense, but

profitable. This job is not going to be easy. Give it your full attention. There are dangers that must be avoided.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — Everything looks easy again. Your luck has improved. Your self confidence is warranted. Begin something impressive. Take a risk.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — As you're looking for resources, don't forget to check your own closets. You may already have most of what you need.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 7 — Friends come to you with questions you can help them answer. Show them how to look up the facts, so they won't be too dependent. You have other things to do.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 7 — Money's coming your way, and not a moment too soon. Accept it without the slightest twinge of guilt. You've more than earned it.

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THE DISH

The Laguna Beach alumns rev up their romance — again

Lauren Conrad once joked to us about her dating woes, "I have a crew of 15 cameras following me, so I'm pretty much a leper!" But now she's finally found a guy who can handle the limelight: her ex, Stephen Colletti!

"There's always been a flirty element to their relationship," says a source close to the long-time friends, both 21, who grew up together and had a fling during Laguna Beach's first season, when Colletti was also romancing Kristin Cavallari.

Bad timing continued to keep the two apart, as he moved on to Hayden Panettiere (from whom he split in September after a year of dating) and the Hills star consorted herself with Jason Wahler.

But now the reality stars have finally reunited: On December 29, at Central in Hollywood, they kissed openly at the bar (after Colletti carried Conrad off the dance floor!). The next night, they went at it again at Las Vegas' LAX, where, a witness says, "they were inseparable — he watched her every move!"

Will it last? Says the duo's pal, "Nobody really knows what to expect from them, because it's always been up and down. But everyone hopes that Lauren finds someone special. She deserves it."

Katherine and Josh: They'll Adopt

Katherine Heigl and Josh Kelley just got back from their honeymoon in Mexico, but a source says the 27 Dresses star, 29, and her singer hubby, 27, are already thinking of kids — and plan to adopt their first. "They definitely will start a family sooner than later," says the pal. "Adoption is important to both of them." Heigl's older sister, Meg, was adopted, and the actress has said that witnessing her sibling give birth in the delivery room cemented her resolve to skip that step herself! "I'm done with the whole idea of having my own children," she told USA Today last May. "[It] doesn't seem like any fun."

Mischa Barton: Drinking!

Nine days after her DUI, Mischa Barton was back on the booze. On January 5 at L.A. nightclub Teddy's, the actress — who was arrested December 27 for DUI, possession of marijuana and a controlled substance and driving without a license — "had tequila shots and drank champagne cocktails and other mixed drinks," an eyewitness tells Hot Stuff. Adds the clubgoer, "She was smiling the whole time and in a great mood!" Maybe it's because she has a new crush: former Bachelor (and U.S. Navy lieutenant) Andy Baldwin. "They have started an e-mail relationship," says a second source. "He thinks she's talented, but they have no plans to meet before he

HOT STUFF

Lauren Conrad: Back on with Stephen!

goes to Iraq this month."

Katie's Second Marathon Shot

Despite her performance in the New York City Marathon on November 4 — the Mad Money star, 29, finished the 26.2-mile race in just under 5 hours and 30 minutes, placing 34,193rd among 39,085 entrants — Hot Stuff has learned that Katie Holmes has registered to compete in the Boston Marathon on April 21! And although runners in that city's race must have specific qualifying times, the actress "has received an exemption," the marathon insider tells Us. Adds the source, race organizers "occasionally give out 'charity' entrances."

Vince: I Still Talk to Jen

The Break-Up stars broke up more than a year ago, but Vince Vaughn says he remains close to Jennifer Aniston, 38. "I have such a great friendship with Jennifer," the actor, 37, confesses to Parade (out January 13). "I still talk to her constantly. I have a real, genuine connection with Jen." What went wrong? "People date, and sometimes it works out, and sometimes it doesn't," he tells the mag. And the star admits he's not yet ready to settle down. "I don't run away from [the responsibility of having a family], but I've never been to the point where I've felt like, 'Wow, this makes sense.'"

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BASKETBALL

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field goal drought. Still, when Crawford ended that drought with a 3-pointer at the 1:59 mark, UK appeared to have withstood Vandy's final charge. But Commodore guard Shan Foster nailed a 3-pointer with 16 seconds left that ultimately sent the game to overtime.

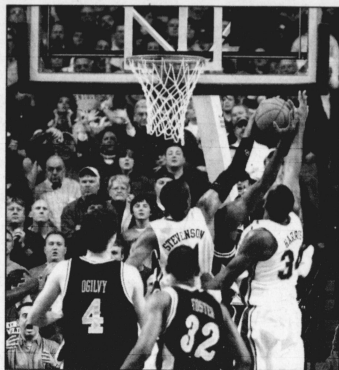
Foster finished with 17 points and three 3-pointers, but head coach Billy Gillispie said he was pleased with Crawford's defense against Vanderbilt's All-American candidate. The Cats held Vanderbilt to lowest scoring output of the season despite playing 10 extra minutes.

The Cats were again seconds from the win in the first overtime, when freshman forward Patrick Patterson blocked an inside shot by Darshawn McClellan with less than 10 seconds to play. But Ogilvy corralled the rebound and scored, tying the game at 72 and sending it to the second overtime.

Gillispie has said all season that his team needed to compete harder, but on Saturday, he couldn't come up with a single play when the Cats failed to compete hard enough.

"I don't know if there was a possession where we didn't compete today," Gillispie said. "That's what makes me the most proud as a coach, because you can't win at the highest level without competing at the highest level."

Bradley and Patterson embodied Gillispie's definition of competing, the coach said. Both



Sophomore forward Perry Stevenson, left, and sophomore forward Ramon Harris block Vanderbilt forward Darshawn McClellan during the first of two overtimes on Saturday.

players played all 50 minutes, and Patterson earned his fifth double-double of the season, scoring 23 points and pulling down 10 rebounds. It marked Patterson's third 20-point, 10-rebound game of the season, the most ever by a UK freshman.

UK pulled down nearly twice as many rebounds as Vanderbilt, out-rebounding the Commodores 45-23, including a 17-4 edge on the offensive glass that led to 18 second-chance points for the Cats.

In the end, it was a game in which neither team shot 50 percent from the field and both teams turned it over at least 20 times. But it still snapped a four-game losing streak to the Commodores — who are now 41-130 against UK all-time — and earned the Cats their 19th win in their last 21 SEC openers.

"We're very happy, very happy," Bradley said. "Basketball is a game — you've got to have fun with it. It's a new season, and we started off 1-0."

BUDGET

Continued from page 1

make changes. The governor requested the letter be presented to his office Friday to aid preparation for the proposal, Cowgill said.

The approximately \$168.5 million in cuts, when adjusted for inflation, would return state appropriations to a level only slightly above that of the 1997-98 fiscal year, the letter says. State funding for higher education was about \$915 million in 1997-98, compared to about \$1.08 billion in 2007-08.

A cut of that level would cause "a lot of backsliding" in Kentucky's higher education goals, Cowgill said in an interview.

With the initial 3 percent cut, Beshear ordered state universities, including UK, to cut \$34.5 million from their budget for the rest of the fiscal year ending in June, out of the \$78 million cut across state government.

Cowgill said budget cuts need to be distributed fairly to various state institutions instead of having higher education becoming a "first resort" for a solution to state budget woes.

"I think there was a time in our state's history when higher education was considered an discretionary expenditure," Cowgill said. "But in this new economy, education should be considered a necessary expenditure."

DESTINATION

Continued from page 1

"We have developed a series of inroads at UK to try to involve students, because they are the folks that are going to be leading the community in 2040," Boland said. "We have just got to have student involvement."

UK employees, including Assistant Vice President for Community Engagement Lisa Higgins-Hord, have been working with Destination 2040 since November. However, UK has not finalized the details of its involvement with the project.

Students, faculty, staff and administrators are all encouraged to train as facilitators for the project, Higgins-Hord said. Facilitators would lead a class, organization or committee meeting in a conversation about Lexington's future. She said she plans to meet with Boland later this week to find

BOOKS

Continued from page 1

dealing buyer-to-buyer. Also, you are usually stuck with what you buy."

Campus bookstores usually price a book by the publisher's current price. However, depending on how old the book is and whether it is likely to be used again, the prices may be altered.

"When bookstores have books left over, they have to decide whether to jump them up to the current retail price or leave them a little lower," Behr said. "When we know books will not be used anymore, we keep them lower. Used books are about 25 percent less than current retail price."

The retail prices for textbooks, however, tend to increase each year, which Sherwood attributes to the economics of supply and demand.

"The textbook industry is a gigantic market with a captive audience required to purchase that edition of that book," Sherwood said. "Companies raise prices because they can."

Despite the continued demand for textbooks, Nelson said there should be a more cost-effective way for students to buy their books that doesn't involve companies raising prices and professors requiring new editions.

"In mathematics, two plus two is four," said Nelson. "It will be four next year too, so why are new books required so frequently?"

out more details on UK's contribution.

Newberry said the vision for Lexington would need the participation of the whole community.

"I hope (the vision) will be one that will involve an enormous number of people in our community, so that every Lexingtonian who has an interest in the future of this community will have an opportunity to participate in a meaningful way," Newberry said.

UK's involvement is key in that vision, Higgins-Hord said.

"Having UK as a partner will assist in the widespread participation the mayor is seeking, as well as provide a shared vision," she said.

"Mayor Newberry has told us many times that this is one of the most important things he will do as mayor of the city of Lexington, and I agree," she said.

More information about Destination 2040 and how to get involved is available at the project's Web site (www.litac.com/destination2040).

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Herald-Leader's new owners

The Herald-Leader has had a bargaining relationship with the Lexington Newspaper Guild-CWA Local 33229 for four decades. In that time, there have been relatively few grievances or arbitrations. It has been a fair, balanced relationship marked by a willingness to discuss and settle problems before they could become problems.

We offered our new owners, The McClatchy Co., that same relationship. But apparently that Sacramento, California-based company doesn't care to maintain such solid working relationships with its employees. It would prefer to operate by unilateral edicts and decrees without getting input from its workers.

As you may know from the local news, the Herald-Leader and its newsroom employees are in negotiations for a new contract. The central issue in negotiations is the company's demand that it have the right to gut sick time and affordable health care for part-time workers. We, on the other hand, are not asking for any more than what is already in the contract. The company's demands are designed simply to eliminate any discussion with employees over whether changes are necessary or fair, tipping the scales against the workers.

If the company were in a tight financial situation or had some specific need, the Guild would work to reach a reasonable deal. Already in this round of bargaining, we have tentatively agreed to several changes in the contract that give the company flexibility it claims to need. But in the cases of sick time and part-time employee insurance, the Herald-Leader doesn't have a specific need. It doesn't have a financial problem. It simply wants to eliminate the bargaining process over two very important health-related issues.

We have a solid track record at this newspaper. McClatchy does not. This round of contract negotiations is not setting a good standard for this employer in our community.

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SPORTS

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Cats capture first SEC win in 2 years

By Patrick Kenkel
sports@kykernel.com

The UK gymnastics team kicked off its annual Excite Night on Saturday in winning fashion.

The No. 24 Cats opened the 2008 campaign with a 193,450-191,950 win over No. 19 Auburn in front of 5,448 fans at Memorial Coliseum.

UK led the meet from start to finish, beating or tying Auburn in every individual event. In doing so, the Cats captured their first win over a Southeastern Conference opponent since the 2006 season.

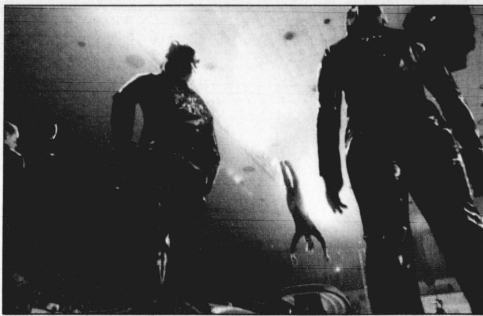
"This year's team has to be one of the top teams I've coached," said fifth-year head coach Mo Mitchell. "Leadership alone is amazing. The attitude and desire to win is just incredible. They are second to none."

After a pre-meet show featuring two choreographed tap-dancing acts, the Cats provided the audience with plenty to cheer for. Sophomore Emily Green started the night by setting a personal high score on the vault with a 9.900. Green's performance on the vault tied her for fifth-place all-time in the event, and she finished the night in second place overall with a score of 39.100.

"As soon as I hit my first vault, I knew it would be a good night for me," Green said.

Following the vault, the Cats had some difficulty with the uneven parallel bars event. However, UK quickly rebounded with a 48,200 on the balance beam, followed by the entire team averaging over 9,800 on the floor event and cementing the victory over Auburn.

Highly touted freshmen Andrea Mitchell, Madison Snowden, Phylicia Reshard and Colleen Williams all saw action in their first career meet. Mitchell scored a 9.675 on the vault; Snowden achieved a 9.800 on the floor. Reshard notched a 9.650 on the uneven bars, and Williams received a 9.175 for her routine on the uneven parallel bars.



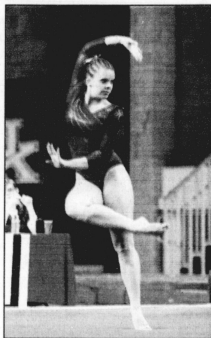
PHOTOS BY ED MATTHEWS | STAFF
Teammates watch as senior Kristen O'Shields warms up before the vault section of Saturday's meet against Auburn in Memorial Coliseum.

Despite the win, Mitchell wasn't completely satisfied with the Cats' outcome.

"We didn't meet our expectations tonight," Mitchell said. "Our goal was to score 195 points, but we also wanted to win. So getting one out of two isn't too bad. I think (uneven) bars is where we had our hiccup, which affected the score we wanted to achieve."

After the victory, the Cats stuck around to sign posters for the numerous fans, particularly younger gymnasts hoping to one day make the team. With the win over a conference opponent, the Cats hope to improve this season in the SEC, where they have struggled over the past two years.

"I think we'll do well and step up at bars and vault," junior Heather Hite said. "We'll only do better as the year goes on."



Sophomore Emily Green pauses during her floor exercise routine on Saturday night in the gymnastics team's first meet of the season against Auburn.

SMITH

Continued from page 1

They celebrated with so much verve because, for the first time this season, they finally had something to celebrate.

"These guys have been through a lot already," head coach Billy Gillispie said.

They sure have. Coach, UK was miserable in the first 13 games of the season, losing seven of those contests, giving the Cats a losing record going into conference play for the first time since the 1988-89 season.

UK had also lost 11 straight games against ranked teams before knocking off the No. 12

Commodores. And the Cats had lost four straight games to Vandy. All that ended Saturday, setting off the wild celebration.

"We needed this a lot," Patterson said.

Much of the credit for the win should go to Patterson.

Patterson scored 23 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead the way for UK. He dominated in the first half, but was largely ignored by his teammates in the second half and in overtime.

Still, he became the first player in the history of the program to record three 20-point, 10-rebound games during his freshman season.

UK got off to leads of 6-0 and 23-10 in the first half, and 32-22 at halftime largely behind

Patterson. The teams traded the lead six times in the two overtimes, and he was a big reason UK won in the second overtime.

He hit a free throw and grabbed three rebounds as he completed a full 50 minutes of play.

After the game, Patterson said he wasn't "tired at all" and that he could "go again."

Credit should also go to UK's two seniors, Ramel Bradley and Joe Crawford.

Bradley's jumper with 33 seconds left in the second overtime clinched the win for UK. Crawford had 17 points and gave the Cats the lead for good with 3:33 left in the second overtime, but his biggest contributions came on the defensive

end. He gave Shan Foster, the Southeastern Conference's best player, a hard time all game.

Bradley and Crawford have been here for four years now, and they're the only players on the team who played in the last UK game that went to double overtime.

That was the 2005 NCAA Tournament Elite Eight game against Michigan State. UK lost, and many fans still haven't gotten over it.

But against Vanderbilt this weekend, they won. And they celebrated.

It has been a long time coming. Jonathan Smith is a journalism senior. E-mail: jsmith@kykernel.com.

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UK launches alert system, encounters technical problems

By Alice Haymond
ahaymond@kykernel.com

UK activated its emergency alert system yesterday morning, months after originally planning to have the system running. More than 2,500 people registered in the first day, but technical problems kept many from signing up.

About 14,000 people tried to sign up with the system in its first hour but were unable because the registration process locked up from the heavy on-line traffic.

The Office of Emergency Management started receiving phone calls and

e-mails concerning difficulties with the registration Web site yesterday morning a little more than an hour after President Lee Todd sent a campus-wide e-mail encouraging sign-ups.

Christy Giles, director of UK's Office of Emergency Management, said her office had tested the sign-up process before officially launching the system, but only with a fraction of the people.

UK's vendor for the system, Wide Area Rapid Notification, has been working to fix the problems with the sign-up process.

"I'm pleased with the overwhelming response," Giles said, "and I hope

that people who were not able to register today will go back and sign up later in the week as we iron out the kinks in the process."

Of the thousands of people who attempted to sign up for UK Alert, 2,634 were able to log on and register for an account as of yesterday evening.

Most of those people were able to finish the process and enter their contact information, Giles said, but there were a few people who were kicked off before they finished signing up. Once the traffic on the Web site slows down, those people will be able to add their information using the log-in name they created yesterday.

The Web site (www.uky.edu/UKAlert) allows anyone connected to UK, including students, faculty, staff, parents and Lexington residents, to sign up to receive text messages, e-mails, faxes or phone calls in case of a campus emergency.

The number of people who tried to register for UK's system in its first hour of operation rivals the number of people who have signed up for the alert systems that other universities launched in the fall.

Michigan State University launched its system in August, and 13,000 people have since signed up. Ohio State University opened registration for its text-messaging system in late September.

Within a month, 12,000 people in its campus community had signed up, and now 15,500 have registered.

People at North Carolina State University began signing up for its system before the winter break. About 10,000 people have registered, but the university is waiting to implement the system until more sign up.

"I think what you're going to find is campuses are only getting 25 percent or fewer people to sign up," said David Rainer, associate vice chancellor for environmental health and public safety at NC State. "We're trying to run an ex-

See **Alert** on page 6

SG chairman resigns to take part-time job

By Katie Saltz
ksaltz@kykernel.com

Student Government Sen. Jesse Parrish announced his resignation as chairman of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee in an e-mail he sent to SG members yesterday evening.

"Over the past week I accepted another part-time job that would restrict my ability to complete my duties as A&R chairman," Parrish said in the e-mail. "I feel that I no longer have the time needed and deserved by the student organizations of this university to help provide the financial opportunities they seek."

Parrish accepted a job as a runner for a law firm in Lexington after looking for a part-time job since the end of fall semester, he said. Two of the four SG committee chairs are unpaid positions, including the A&R chair.

"I didn't have the time and I didn't want to short the committee," Parrish said. "I'm just moving in a different direction."

Senate President Tyler Montell said the e-mail was the first notification he received of Parrish's resignation and said he was thankful Parrish considered what was best for the committee in his decision.

"He was really good at what he did, but we know he is pursuing other interests," Montell said.

Parrish said his resignation is in no way related to the SG ethics investigation over his and Sen. Blake Burnett's reselling of tickets for profit to an SG-sponsored concert in September. Proceeds from the concert went to the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center. Parrish later said he and Burnett would donate their profits.

See **Resignation** on page 6

Students plan service for Spring Break

By Wesley Robinson
wrobin@kykernel.com

Students not interested in hitting the beaches for Spring Break this year can find alternative ideas at the Center for Community Outreach.

The Alternative Spring Break student organization held a meeting last night to outline and describe two different trips they will offer, one in Tennessee and another in Georgia. Both will take place March 7 through 15, said program coordinator Karima Samadi.

"Once Upon a Time In Appalachia" will teach students about a different environment and culture, said Samadi, a dietetics senior. Students will work with senior citizen and child development centers in the Snowbird Cherokee community in Merryville, Tenn.

Students will work with the Cherokee population and will be assisting with habitat and bridge building, and homesteading activities such as gardening, harvesting crops and splitting firewood, Samadi said.

The other trip will be to Albany, Ga., through the Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge. Students will be constructing and remodeling low-income and poorly developed housing areas, Samadi said.

"I cried the last year when I left," said Beth Willett, a dietetics graduate student who participated in Alternative Spring Breaks from 1996 to 2001. "I wish every student would try it — I learned so much all those years fixing things that I didn't know how to do, it helps build practical skills," Willett said. "I can throw up dry wall, build porches and put up handrails."

Erka Reitano, a dietetics senior and a member of the organization who will lead one of the trips, said she is looking forward to the journey because she feels it will be a "life-changing experience."

Applications for both trips are due Jan. 16 and are available at the Volunteer Center's Web site (www.uky.edu/volunteercenter). Students can turn in the applications at the center in room 106 of the Student Center. There is a \$50 application fee.

There are 34 openings for an alternative spring break trip: 12 to Tennessee and 22 to Georgia. Non-UK and graduate students are allowed to attend. There will be an orientation for the selected members and fundraisers to help lower the cost of the trip.

In the future, the organization plans to expand the alternative spring break program including the possibility of an international trip.

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STATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH



PHOTOS BY BRITNEY MCINTOSH | STAFF

Gov. Steve Beshear gives his closing remarks of the State of the Commonwealth Address last night at the Capitol building in Frankfort.

Beshear: Ky. must deal with 'dismal' budget

By Jill Laster
jlaster@kykernel.com

FRANKFORT — Gov. Steve Beshear firmly laid out the "financially dismal" situation Kentucky will face in coming months during last night's State of the Commonwealth Address.

In his first annual address, Beshear announced what may be a longer-term cut across the entire state government in response to an "unprecedented budgetary shortfall."

"It is not a time for whining or 'woe is us' — it is a time for leadership, bold action and temporary cost

cutting," Beshear said in his speech to the Kentucky General Assembly.

Beshear's call for funding cuts across state government followed an order for a 3 percent budget cut for almost all state agencies and public universities until the fiscal year ends in June.

Raising taxes will be a last resort, Beshear said. Instead, his administration will pursue reducing government spending.

"We can wring more efficiency out of state government and I intend to do just that," Beshear said.

"It's common sense, but it will require some painful sacrifices. I intend to be a fiscally responsible steward of this government. I would much prefer to be standing here today talking to you about all the new investments we're making, but much of that will have to wait for another day."

Along with the 3 percent cut announced two weeks ago, which amounted to a \$10 million loss in state revenue for UK,

Beshear called for public universities to prepare for an additional 12 percent loss.

UK President Lee Todd said that UK will continue to push for full funding of the Top 20 Business and public universities until the increase in funding and faculty each year through 2020.

"We're on an upswing now," Todd said. "We can't afford to stall."

Last week Todd said the budget cut of 12 percent Beshear asked universities to prepare for would require a tuition increase of 30 percent to fund. This is an increase that "would not be an option for Kentucky," Todd said.

In last night's address, Beshear did not focus on higher education. However, Todd said he believes the governor should give universities funding to continue research efforts within the state.

"I do believe that if you're trying to make a state nationally competitive, globally competi-

See **Address** on page 6



UK President Lee Todd talks to Joe Win, vice president of government and community relations at Northern Kentucky University, after the State of the Commonwealth Address.

Tour offers students dancing, a night with the stars

By Kelly Willey
kwilley@kykernel.com

Flashy costumes and sophisticated dancing will be par for the course when Dancing With the Stars: The Tour comes to Rupp Arena tonight at 7:30.

"I believe that people love to see dancing live," said Eddie Clemens, marketing coordinator for AEG Live. "Also people have seen most of the stars in other things and are excited to see them doing something new and exciting."

"Dancing With the Stars" is a TV show where celebrities are paired with professional dancers. The pairs compete against each other

to receive high scores from the judges and popularity amongst viewers. Each week a pair is eliminated from the show until there is only one pair remaining. Tonight's performance in Lexington includes Joey Lawrence, Marie Osmond and Wayne Newton.

Clemens said this event draws a large crowd. He said ticket sales have been great so far this season, and some even sell out on the day of the event.

"Not an easy task to run a tour like this," Clemens said. "It is very involved."

He said one of the more demanding parts of the tour is unloading the equipment, assembling everything and then loading it all

If you go

What: Dancing With the Stars: The Tour
When: Today at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Rupp Arena
Admission: Ticket Prices Range From \$50 to \$165

back up. Clemens said he feels all the hard work pays off because the crowd enjoys the effect all the hard work has on the show.

Cathy Derr, the senior manager and arena events coordinator at Rupp Arena, said it is more than just a dance show involving celebrities.

Arthur Murray Dance Studio will hold a local dance competition at the beginning of the evening.

Derr said VIP ticket holders receive a floor seat with a great view of the dancers and a small gift bag.

Clemens said he has seen the show a few times and thought it was "very entertaining."

"It moves very smoothly and has a good variety of types of dance," Clemens said. "It's impressive to see the talent of all these people here. I think anyone that goes to this show will enjoy it."

Tickets range anywhere from \$50 to \$165. For more information contact the Lexington Center Ticket Office at 233-3535.

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is a 7 — Be polite to a stern taskmaster. This is the person who is teaching you to be a hero, an expert, a perfectionist or all three. Learn the rules and follow them. You're on a winning streak.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 7 — Impats are short, especially on the road and in unfamiliar situations. Take care and don't bite anybody's head off. You know how you can get. Stay cool.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 7 — One of your buddies accomplishes something you've been trying to do. Don't feel the least bit jealous. This is also a win for you. After all, remember, you're on the same team.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 7 — Controversy arises. Do you need to get involved? Not necessarily. Let somebody else fight this battle for you. Watch from a safe place.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is a 7 — It's a good time to fall in love. If you already have, you may be surprised to find you can do it all over again, with the same person. It mellows with age.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 7 — Don't hurry, take your time and use your imagination. With a few carefully chosen items, you can create a masterpiece.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 7 — Provide encouragement, to help one of your friends drop a bad habit. He or she may not think it's possible, but you know it is. It's okay to be tough.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 6 — You've made a good impression on an authority figure. He or she admires you for sticking to your guns. You're advancing to the next level.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is an 8 — You're not in the mood to do your regular chores. Don't quit your job, but do take a leisurely lunch with a person you find fascinating. Maybe that will help you relax.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 7 — Not a good time to gamble. It is a good time to shop for bargains for your home, real estate included. Check to make sure it's a solid deal, however. All is not as it seems to be.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is an 8 — Somebody else is the one who comes up with the winning answer this time. It's okay, since this person has your own best interests at heart. It's grounds for a celebration.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 7 — Is it really worth the effort? Don't start worrying about

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THIS MINUTE

Katherine's Wedded Bliss

THE DISH

The newlywed talks to Us about marriage and her new movie

Josh and me.
Q: You got married, won an Emmy and starred in a hit film in 2007. How do you top that? It's been a whirlwind! It's been the most gratifying year of my life, personally and professionally. I can only hope 2008 is just as wonderful! *aimce agresti*

Rothenberg tells Us of the former Arkansas governor's win in the Republican caucuses. After a TV ad featuring Norris, 67, and Huckabee, 52 (in which Huckabee quips, "My plan to secure the border? Two words: Chuck Norris"), debuted November 18, it racked up 3 million YouTube hits. "Celebrity endorsements of any sort are rare for the GOP," adds John Orman. "Chuck's conservative image resonates with many Republicans."

Oprah's Influence

Midas touch, indeed! Experts say Oprah Winfrey showed her clout — after Barack Obama, 46 (the first political candidate the talk-show queen, 53, has endorsed), topped — Hillary Clinton, 60, at the Iowa Democratic caucuses January 3. (In mid-December, polls showed Clinton slightly ahead of Obama; at presstime, the Illinois senator led by eight points.) "No other celebrity has her credibility," political analyst Larry Sabato tells Us. Adds John Orman, coauthor of *Celebrity Politics*, "After Oprah's December Obama rallies [which drew 70,000 people], pundits said celebrities have no impact on elections. But hers was substantial." More surprising? Obama got 55 percent of the female vote, 5 percent more than Clinton. "Many of Oprah's viewers are homemakers," says Sabato. "Apparently, they were listening." Philip Keckha

Patricia's Big TV Return

Patricia Arquette has something new in common with Allison Dubois, the psychic she plays on *Medium* (NBC, Mondays, 10 p.m.) who was axed from her gig helping the DA solve crimes: lots of free time. Because of the Hollywood writers' strike, production shut down on season four of the drama after just nine episodes (they began airing January 7). "I can actually clean my house and take my child to school!" Arquette (who has a daughter, Harlow, 4, with actor husband Thomas Jane, 39) marvels to Us.

Small-screen drama If only things were so peaceful for her alter ego, Dubois teams up with a shady PI (guest star Anjelica Huston) to make ends meet and deal with stress at home. And she still has to tackle those eerie cases: "Promises Arquette, "There are lots of grisly crimes and gruesome stuff." **ERIC ANDERSSON**


Norris Also Sways Voters

Chuck Norris is no Oprah — but he did give Mike Huckabee some much-needed publicity. "political analyst Stuart

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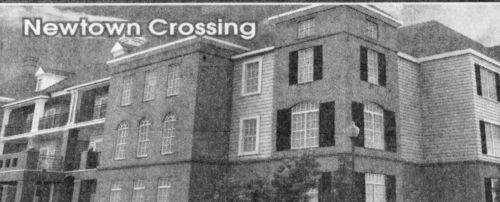
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UK looks to end road woes against Miss. St.

By Kenny Colston
kcolston@kykernel.com

Like a worn-out rock star, life on the road has been anything but easy for the UK basketball team this year.

The team suffered through double-digit defeats in their only two away games at Indiana and Houston in December. But head coach Billy Gillispie said it is not the road itself that wears on the Cats.

"Everyone thinks it's tough to go on the road," Gillispie said at yesterday's news conference. "The thing that is tough is the team that awaits you there."

Coming off UK's best win of the year, a double-overtime victory over No. 12 Vanderbilt, Gillispie praised his team for competing the entire game. The Cats (7-7, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) hope to duplicate that effort against Mississippi State (11-5, 2-0 SEC) tonight and remain unbeaten in conference play.

"They have good depth and athleticism," Gillispie said of the Bulldogs. "They are very efficient."

Ranked seventh in the SEC in points per game, junior Jamont Gordon leads the offense for Mississippi State, which is riding a six-game winning streak. Gordon, a versatile forward that averages 17 points and 6 rebounds a game, jump-starts an offense that Gillispie described simply as "efficient."

"(Gordon) is a great player," Gillispie said. "His knowledge of the game and his experience make him an outstanding player."

The Bulldogs are anchored defensively by sophomore center Jarvis Varnado, who averages five blocks and eight re-

bounds a game, first and second in the SEC respectively. Through two conference games, Varnado has 17 blocks, including a 10-block performance against Georgia on Saturday.

"They are very tough defensively," Gillispie said. "You have to score every basket you get."

Due in part to Varnado's shot-blocking ability, opponents have had a hard time creating points in the low post against Mississippi State, which has limited its two conference opponents to an average of just 44 points and a .229 field goal percentage.

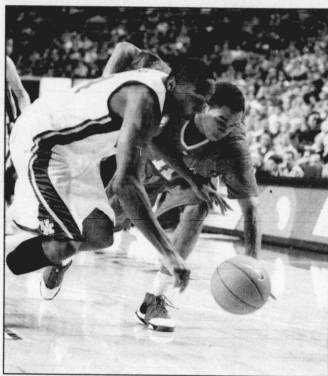
"They play the post a lot of different ways," Gillispie said. "But they depend on a lot of one-on-one as well."

But if UK hopes to improve its SEC record to 2-0, Gillispie said the team would have to cut down on the turnovers that have plagued it all season, especially in the second half of games.

"You can't execute like we did (Saturday) down the stretch and beat good teams," Gillispie said.

The Cats continue to be plagued by the injury bug heading into Starkville, Miss. Gillispie said that sophomore guards Jodie Meeks and Derrick Jasper did not participate in practice in the two days since the Vanderbilt game. Meeks sat out Saturday after aggravating a strained hip flexor earlier. Jasper left the game in the second half with a sprained medial collateral ligament. Gillispie was unsure whether they would be available against Mississippi State.

And though the Cats boast just a meager 7-7 record for the year, they are taking solace in the fact that they are undefeated



Ramon Harris dives for a loose ball in UK's 62-52 win against Stony Brook on Nov. 27.

in conference play.

"Coach was emphasizing that we're 1-0," freshman forward Patrick Patterson said. "He's worried about the SEC right now and putting the losses behind us right now. We're just going to go out and move forward to Mississippi State."

The biggest weapon in UK's arsenal may be its newfound confidence from the team's performance Saturday, said sophomore forward Ramon Harris.

"Seeing the result of what was going on all week, now you really want to focus more, especially with us going on the road this week," Harris said after the

Vanderbilt win. "Mississippi State is a good team, and with us winning today, it's really good to help us out."

But the Vanderbilt win did not affect how UK readied itself for the Bulldogs, Gillispie said.

"I believe we'd be prepared regardless of the result on Saturday," Gillispie said.

Even if the Cats stumble in Starkville, Gillispie said his team will continue to carryover one characteristic throughout its conference schedule.

"This team is going to be tough throughout the remainder of the season," he said.

It's now or never for Cats to resurrect season

There's an indecible difference between a team that stinks,



J.D. Williams
Kernel columnist

which wins come few and light-years between, and a team that is good but just in a funk.

You'll notice it because the fans of a good team entering a bad run will leave the arena after a tough loss with their index finger still standing upward. Not to indicate the home team is No. 1 and surely not to acknowledge their team's dominance after an obvious loss.

But it's just to say: one day, Not that day, and maybe not tomorrow, but one day they will emerge from there dormant place and once again dominate.

For the UK basketball team's chances this season, that day is either today or never.

UK's big losses against cupcakes came early in the season made for a steep uphill battle. The final scores against those rather easy opponents were anything but sweet. Frankly, it was bitter down to the last bite.

After a morale boosting win Saturday against Vanderbilt, a team that hadn't been beaten, the Cats presented themselves the opportunity to make good out of a most terrible situation. The chance to get the season going in the right direction couldn't come at a better time.

The double-overtime win marked the start of a Southeastern Conference schedule that will challenge the Cats. The way UK properly handled its first conference foe after a lackluster start to the season has us all asking one question: Will the real Cats please stand up?

Unfortunately for UK the answer to that question is still up

in the air, being blown toward the disappointing truth.

The fact is that the same ailments that forced the Cats to stagger under the .500 mark are still persistent problems. Once again Billy Gillispie is unsure about whether sophomore guards Jodie Meeks and Derrick Jasper will suit up for another game. Problems with injuries have plagued the team in the early part of the season.

Just when you thought it was safe to get out the pompons and face paint, the injury bug came roaring back.

UK can't be short on men against Mississippi State tonight, or any of the upcoming SEC teams in the next weeks. If so, then they better consider changing the mascot to the Titans, because the SEC teams are icebergs UK can't avoid. The league is physical and teams with depth can thrive in it. If the Cats can't find the muscle to stay on the hardwood instead of bathing in whirlpools then all

the hoopla over Saturday's win was for no reason.

The Kernel Wants You

The Krystal Ball is a contest where members of the Kernel sports staff and one lucky UK student pick the outcomes of the top college games of the weekend. The Krystal Ball football edition concluded at the end of the fall semester, with assistant sports editor Matthew George taking the crown. Now the staff is wiping the slate clean and beginning the college basketball edition of the contest, which will start next week. And we want to hear from another representative of the people.

If any of you fans want to join in picking college basketball's top games e-mail Eric Lindsey, our sport's editor, at clindsey@kykernel.com with the subject "Krystal Ball" by Jan. 20, and let us know why you'd be the best choice.

J.D. Williams is a journalism senior. E-mail at jwilliams@kykernel.com.

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Tuesday 15 th	Wednesday 16 th	Thursday 17 th	Friday 18 th	Saturday 19 th	Sunday 20 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •Volunteering at the Carnegie Center 3:00 PM •Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Volunteering at the Carnegie Center 3:00 PM •The Original Kings of Comedy (Late-Night Film) 10:00 PM Worsham Theater (Student Center) •Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •Comedy Caravan 8:00 PM Student Center Cats Den •Volunteer w/ Beaumont Buddies 4:00 PM Beaumont Middle School •Resume 101 3:00 PM Oliver H. Raymond, Room 112 •OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Volunteering at the Carnegie Center 3:00 PM •DanceBlue Committee Meeting 6:00 PM SC RM 230 •OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •Sudoku Tournament 8:00 PM UK Student Center Cats Den •Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •"The Namesake" (Free Late-Night Film) 10:00 PM Worsham Theater (Student Center) •CCO Board of Directors Meeting 5:00 PM 106 Student Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •Volunteering at the Carnegie Center 3:00 PM •OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •Beer and Cheese tasting event 6:00 PM Wild Oats on Nicholasville Rd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Volunteering at the Carnegie Center 10:00 PM •Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •OLD MASTER WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE COLLECTION 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts •Three Girls and Their Buddy 7:30 PM Singletary Center for the Arts •Robert C. May Photography Endowment Lecture Series 12:00 PM UK Art Museum in the Singletary Center for the Arts
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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 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.

■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

Proposed study on textbooks won't help lower cost

Like tuition, fees, rent and parking passes, textbooks are one of the inevitable expenses of college life that leave many students grumbling. The cost of buying textbooks and supplies adds up quickly each semester, especially when individual volumes often have triple-digit price tags, and selling books back rarely provides much relief.

The burden of purchasing textbooks is nearly universal for college students. Nationally, students at four-year public universities spend an average of nearly \$900 each year, according to a 2005 study by the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the cost of textbooks has been rising at twice the level of inflation since the mid-1980s.

State Rep. Rick Nelson, D-Middlesboro, hopes that the Kentucky General Assembly can help reduce the price of textbooks. He has filed a bill calling for state government to study the cost of textbooks at both the primary school and college levels, and he said in a Monday Kernel article that he would eventually like to see printed textbooks replaced with online materials.

On the surface, it seems like a welcome endeavor, as any help in reducing the cost of education would be appreciated. However, Nelson's proposal as it stands is unlikely to actually achieve this goal.

Completing a study will mean expanding state funds and research staff for what will most likely be little gain. Textbook prices have been studied before, most notably in the federal General Accounting Office report from July 2005, and there does not seem to be a compelling reason for the state to repeat the work that has already been done. The textbook market in Ken-

tucky is not significantly different from that of any other state, and the federal report is still recent and relevant.

Although college students are one of the more technologically savvy segments of the population, accessing textbooks online is hardly a solution to the cost problem. In the near future, the availability of books is a major concern, as it's up to the publishers to make their content available electronically. And while lugging several heavy textbooks is certainly annoying, printed material avoids such persistent technological issues as software crashes, spotty Internet connections and eyestrain from prolonged computer use.

Ultimately, the price a student pays for textbooks each semester is determined by the instructors and the course materials they choose to use. When a professor requires multiple textbooks or a new edition for which there are no used books available, the cost goes up for every student in the class. Often, these requirements are justified, though sometimes they are not. While there should be policies in place to protect students from spending extra money unnecessarily, they should be set by UK and other universities on an individual basis; the General Assembly should not try to micromanage how textbooks are selected.

The rising cost of textbooks is an issue that needs to be addressed, but in a meaningful way that will bring results. Using state resources to duplicate existing research is unlikely to solve the problem. Instead, Kentucky's colleges should lead the way in finding ways to reduce the cost of education through more effective use of textbooks.

Universities have a duty to spend endowments

The following editorial appeared in the Dallas Morning News on Friday.

By law, most private foundations must give away 5 percent of their earnings each year. Why not universities? They pay no taxes on the earnings of their endowments. Plus, donors to those endowments receive tax breaks.

We admit that the issue sounds awfully legalistic. But it's not just one for lawyers to chat about at the alumni center.

Across the nation, headlines are screaming about the middle class being unable to afford college tuition. The price is racing upward while some endowments are witnessing double-digit growth. Is it really fair for families to foot so much of the bill under those flush circumstances?

No. The reports evidently have caught Sen. Charles Grassley's attention. The Senate Finance Committee's top Republican wants his panel to consider requiring universities to spend 5 percent of their endowment earnings annually.

We don't particularly like government telling institutions what to do. But the affordability of college is a growing concern.

If an annual spending requirement would free up money for more scholarships or help schools pay more of their costs instead of shifting them onto students and parents, we're open to it. Plus, why shouldn't university endowments play by the same rules that govern private foundations?

Interestingly, Mark Yudof, the University of Texas System chancellor, agrees. He sees nothing wrong with a spending standard, since schools get public benefits. (The UT System spends about 4.75 percent of its endowment's earnings annually. The Legislature also has limited what the system can spend it on.)

Now, Congress may need to smooth out any spending requirement. Maybe universities can average expenditures over a three-year period.

However it's done, Grassley has a point. And if university leaders don't like it, they had better start showing they aren't simply watching their endowments grow. Yale's increased recently by as much as 28 percent in one year.

However, Yale also is opening its checkbook, so that's a plus. Will other schools follow? If they don't, they're begging Washington to mess with them.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

UK students are a pleasant group to work with

I have worked at UK for almost 13 years now, and currently I am a staff employee in the UK IT Customer Service Center in McVey Hall. I read the Kernel almost every day. I have noticed that the Kernel's reporting of the current issues is often negative. Well, I just wanted to say something different, and that is that I am very proud to work at UK.

I really want to let the students at UK know, and I really mean this, that I think they are a great bunch of people. I talk to a lot of them on the phone and in person for my job, and I have never once had any problems with any of them. I find them to be

very mannerly, most often I get a reply with a "yes, sir" or "no, sir" following, and a "thank you" after I help them. They seem very appreciative to be helped. I have also worked on UK events during a part-time security job outside of UK, and I have never once had any serious problems with any UK student either. I really applaud you all, and I thank you for making my day.

I hope you have a wonderful future and that your UK education takes you to the highest limits of your potential!

Lee Davis
UK IT Customer Service

Cartoonists Needed

The Kernel is looking for a cartoonist to draw pieces for the Opinions page on a regular basis. Those who have an interest in campus and local issues will be given special attention, although cartoons of all interests will be considered.

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com



TOM WILKINS, Kernel Cartoonist

New semester presents fresh chances to be involved on campus

It feels great to be a Wildcat, doesn't it? Think about it, when is the last time a stadium full of fans did the



TYLER MONTPELL
Contributing columnist

Seminole War Chant... wearing blue? And hey, wasn't it great to see the men's basketball team get a big win Saturday against Vanderbilt? I don't think Rupp Arena has ever been louder, or Cats fans happier.

But there is some bad news: If you're reading this, the chances are that today you will have either gone to class, or have to go eventually, if you aren't already sitting in a desk somewhere on campus right now. Don't fret though, for there are only about 52 more days until spring break.

This being said, there is still plenty of time to make the most out of this spring semester, because after all, this is your last chance to be a freshman/sophomore/junior/senior. It's time that you get out of that room of yours and put down the Xbox controller.

It's high time you get out there and do something for yourself; use this time to make some life improvements. Make some new friends, learn something outside of the classroom and start looking fabulous. No, that doesn't mean you can stop going to

class, but like I said, you have 52 days to get your life together before spring break, why not start today? Beat the rush and join a student organization early. I know you have heard it a thousand times in a thousand different ways, but there's a lot more than free T-shirts and pizza to getting involved with a student organization.

There are hundreds of different organizations here at UK that will hook you up with some people that love the same stuff you do. It's like an eHarmony.com for hobbies and interests. Go to the Student Affairs Web site (www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/) to see a full list of clubs; better yet, go talk to Student Organizations Assistant Director Todd Cox, Office Manager Denise Stephens or any of the other cool people at the Center for Student Involvement in the Student Center. Pick out a cool new club and go to the meeting. I won't take no for an answer, so don't argue.

Once you join an organization, don't be "that guy" that sits in the back for two months and doesn't talk to anyone. Go right in, introduce yourself, get on Wikipedia and get some new jokes. Bring a funding request packet from the Student Government office and explain to them you can help the group get some funding for T-shirts or an event they want to put on this semester. Tell them you are going to call up your friend Tyler Montell at SG and we can get it done. Tell

them they can get 100 free copies of colored paper from the Center for Student Involvement, or that they can even reserve rooms. Pretty soon, you'll be honored as the new member of the year. My, that new confidence sure does look good on you.

So maybe you have put on the "freshman 15," you're still my friend all the same. But let's be honest, you do have only 52 days to get it together before your visit to paradise; you will want to look your best to impress the rest.

It's okay, just head down to the Johnson Center and ask about the Time to Change Weight Loss Program. According to the Johnson Center Web site (www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/CampusRec/JohnsonCenter/), the program is "designed to help you lose weight, reduce body fat, increase your confidence in achieving your fitness goals and give you the confidence to continue your fitness program on your own, and finally improve your health and overall quality of life."

This program is open and free to all UK students with a body mass index of 30 or more. The program will set you up with a personal trainer and will help you with everything you need to get in fighting weight just in time for... (insert awesome spring break plans here).

Tyler Montell is the Student Government Senate president. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Media must heed primary lesson: Await votes before making conclusions

This already has been one of the most interesting and unpredictable presidential election campaigns in decades.

I wish I could say it's been a stellar performance by the press, but I can't. The only good thing on that count is that voters aren't letting what we say influence their decisions. In fact, the opposite might be true. How delightful.

We buried Sen. John McCain months ago — well before any votes had been taken — because his campaign organization was in a mess. We, the collective media, were ready to anoint Sen. Barack Obama as the nominee Tuesday afternoon — before any New Hampshire votes had been counted.

What's going on here? A few thoughts:

The press is always looking for what's new and different and makes a good story. We help create expectations; when the expectations aren't met or they're exceeded, that's news. It's just not compelling to say: "Obama doesn't mean much that Barack Obama unexpectedly won the Iowa caucuses last night because Iowa is an unrepresentative state."

With the advent of cable television and the Internet, there's a surfeit of opinion and interpretive reporting

over just straight reporting. I sometimes feel as if we are jumping to conclusions. For example, following Iowa dozens of pieces were written about how "change" would be the defining element of this campaign. That may or may not be true, but in New Hampshire Tuesday the experienced candidates, McCain and Sen. Hillary Clinton, prevailed. The point is that we shouldn't come to such broad conclusions about the mood of the electorate based on the voting of two small states and before a whole lot of other voters have truly focused on the campaign.

We tend to make too much of polls. Polls can be helpful in showing trends, but they are snapshots of a point in time, not predictors of what's going to happen. Monday evening I spoke to any number of colleagues in New Hampshire who had seen the latest polls showing McCain and Obama well ahead. Obama was said by some polls to have a 10-point-plus margin over Clinton. The Republican polls turned out to be fairly representative of what happened, but not the Democratic ones.

Part of the problem is that as good as polling models are, they're based on assumptions of who is going to vote. When a lot of young voters turned out in Iowa for Obama, contrary to the assumptions in prior polls, the results turned out to be surprising. In New Hampshire, more women voted for Clinton than was expected. In that sense, the best polling data are usually

the exit polls of people who actually voted. But, even then, we're assuming voters are honestly answering questions about why they voted, as opposed to saying what they think they are expected to say. I'm not saying polls don't have value, just that their value must be kept in perspective.

Trying to gauge candidates' performances on election night based on the types of crowds they are drawing is a very dangerous game. In his classic book "The Making of a President 1960" (still a thoroughly worthwhile read), Theodore White devoted an entire section to how deceptive big, enthusiastic crowds could be. He admits that in the closings weeks of the campaign, he believed John F. Kennedy was headed to a smashing victory based on the exuberance of the crowds. The election, of course, turned out to be a squeaker. The point, said White, is that a myriad of larger forces was at work. What he observed tended to overwhelm his judgment, White said.

How and why Americans vote as they do is complex and not always easy to discern. And how and why citizens vote as they do doesn't always fit into the demands of how the news media operate. On Feb. 5 there will be 22 primary contests, and after that evening more than 60 percent of the delegates will have been chosen. Hold the analyses. Let the voters vote.

James Klurfeld is a professor of journalism at Stone Brook University. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

ALERT

Continued from page 1

tensive advertising campaign to get people to sign up and to raise awareness."

Giles said the anticipation that built up within the UK community over the last four months might have played a role in such an immediate response.

"Everybody's been waiting on (the implementation of UK Alert) — the interest was so beyond our expectations on the first day," she said. "We'll work through the glitches as quickly as we can."

President Lee Todd sent out a campus-wide e-mail at about 9 a.m. encouraging members of the community to fill up for UK Alert, and offering students and employees a chance to win one of four iPhones if they reg-

istered for the system.

"It is important to remember that for the emergency notification system to truly work, we need members of our campus community to sign up for the service," he said in the e-mail.

UK started looking to include text messages in an alert system after the Virginia Tech shootings in April. The university signed a purchase order for the emergency notification system in late August, with hopes of implementing it within a few weeks.

When the system was not up and running by late October, officials said technical problems had caused the delay and that the system would be implemented in November. It was ready to launch in December, but UK waited until now to start the sign-up process because it did not want to distract

students at the end of the semester, Giles said.

Some representatives from other universities said once their program was in place, the sign-up process could happen immediately.

"We ran a few tests in the summertime and had it ready to go by the end of August," said Bill Wardwell, the inspector in charge of emergency management at Michigan State.

The University of California-Davis uses the same vendor as UK and has not yet implemented the system it signed a contract for in October. The school is trying to integrate the WARN system with its current databases rather than having people fill out new contact information, said Valerie Lucus, emergency and continuity manager at UC-Davis.

ADDRESS

Continued from page 1

tive, you've got to invest in higher education," Todd said. "That's a decision you've got to make."

In last night's speech Beshear talked about investments in new innovations in business and technology, saying that Kentucky must use "a top to bottom infusion of imagination" to generate investments and jobs.

The governor also discussed a comprehensive ethics package announced last week. The package would include:

- Passing a constitutional amendment limiting the governor's pardoning power.

RESIGNATION

Continued from page 1

Parrish is in his third year on the A&R committee, and this was his second as committee chairman. The A&R committee's primary responsibility is allotting funds to campus groups. Parrish will be replaced by the vice-chairman of the committee, Sen. Kevin Parrott.

Parrott is a first-year member of SG. He was elected by the A&R committee to vice-chair in October after Sen. Brittany Pennington resigned from the position. A new vice-chair will be elected by the committee, which meets tomorrow.

Parrott said it was an unexpected change, but he accepted the position last night after the e-mail was sent.

"I'm the Gerald Ford of the A&R committee,"

- Reducing the governor's influence in making appointments to the Executive Branch Ethics Commission.

- Requiring more disclosure of donations to a public official's legal defense fund.

- Banning lobbyists and people doing business with the state from contributing to an official's legal defense fund.

Although Beshear called for sweeping change and substantial funding cuts throughout his speech last night, he ended his address by saying he believes Kentucky can deal with its problems.

"Yes, I have been handed an unprecedented financial problem to deal with, but the silver lining is that it will force us to change for the better, and grow," he said.

Parrott said, "I hadn't heard anything about this until about 6 o'clock, and I've accepted."

Parrott is a second-year medical student, but said he can handle the responsibilities of the position.

SG President Nick Phelps said the e-mail was his first notification of Parrish's resignation as well, but he is completely confident in Parrott's abilities to run the committee.

Parrish will continue to serve as the business and economics college senator and said he looks forward to continue working in the Senate. The Committee on Committees will determine if Parrish will continue to serve in A&R, but Parrish said he would prefer to not serve on any of SG's committees.

"There are several senators who do not have committee responsibilities because of time constraints, and that is the route I'd like to go," Parrott said.

Sagging Mich. economy is primary issue

By David Lightman
McClatchy Newspapers

TAYLOR, Mich. — Michigan's Republican presidential primary on Tuesday is this election year's first clear referendum on who voters think can best manage — and revive — the slumping economy, which has hit this state harder than most.

Wherever the candidates go, job security and the threat of inflation are the political topics people most want to discuss. Most voters are highly uncertain about who, if anyone, can get this state moving again.

Many also are highly uncertain about whom to support. Two new polls Monday suggested that Arizona Sen. John McCain now holds a narrow lead over former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in Michigan, with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee running a strong third in both polls, one for Zagly and the other for the Detroit News. A Jan. 9-11 McClatchy-MSNBC survey by Mason-Dixon, however, found 11 percent of voters undecided and another 39 percent who could still change their minds.

Raquel Reardon of Grosse Pointe Woods went to a Republican rally in Taylor Sunday night with her children — son Richard was laid off last month and daughter Micaela had her hours cut. Mom herself is having trouble finding work.

Such stories are legion here, while the November jobless rate was 7.4 percent — the nation's highest.

Even people with jobs worry. Geoff Platte works in customer service at an auto credit firm, but the company headquarters is moving to Virginia, and he's not sure he'll have a job in a year. Jill Kloster of St. Clair Shores, who's about to graduate from college, is concerned that she'll have trouble finding a teaching position.

Romney stresses his family ties to Michigan, recalling how he uniquely understands the state's plight, since his father was once the highly regarded president of American Motors, and later, the governor.

He outlined his vision Monday to the Detroit Economic Club and later toured the city's mammoth auto show. He's been blasting rival McCain, the Arizona senator, as insensitive to the auto industry, saying his push for higher fuel-efficiency standards would hurt the nation's auto industry. Romney says McCain's claim that some jobs are simply lost forever is irresponsible.

McCain, appearing at rallies in the western part of the state Monday, said that government programs aimed at helping workers are outdated. He'd ramp jobless benefits and retraining efforts to prepare people for what he calls the "new jobs

of the future."

Huckabee talks about how he'd revamp the nation's tax system. He spoke at an auto plant and visited the auto show Monday, but has spent less time here than Romney and McCain have. He's also emphasized his conservative social views, which are especially popular with evangelical Christians here.

Most voters look at who'd be the best leader rather than at specific policies.

Reardon, for instance, likes former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani's record of getting things done. Ronald James, a Southfield auto worker, went for McCain in 2000 but probably will back Romney on Tuesday.

"He's been around the rhetoric of the industry a long time," James figured.

Perhaps more typical is Linda McGhee, a homemaker whose husband is an auto executive. She likes New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, a Democrat, but also Romney. While she differs with Romney on social issues, "he's talking about being innovative." And she likes how he worked with Democrats in Massachusetts to enact a comprehensive health insurance law.

McGhee was the voice of ambivalence. "We need change, but I have to figure out what direction that change will take," she said. "I've never been so confused about an election in my life."

WHAT is JUST?

Trust must be earned by
Herald-Leader's new owners

The Herald-Leader has had a bargaining relationship with the Lexington Newspaper Guild-CWA Local 33229 for four decades. In that time, there have been relatively few grievances or arbitrations. It has been a fair, balanced relationship marked by a willingness to discuss and settle problems before they could become problems.

We offered our new owners, The McClatchy Co., that same relationship. But apparently that Sacramento, California-based company doesn't care to maintain such solid working relationships with its employees. It would prefer to operate by unilateral edicts and decrees without getting input from its workers.

As you may know from the local news, the Herald-Leader and its newsroom employees are in negotiations for a new contract. The central issue in negotiations is the company's demand that it have the right to gut-sick time and affordable health care for part-time workers. We, on the other hand, are not asking for any more than what is already in the contract. The company's demands are designed simply to eliminate any discussion with employees over whether changes are necessary or fair, tipping the scales against the workers.

If the company were in a tight financial situation or had some specific need, the Guild would work to reach a reasonable deal. Already in this round of bargaining, we have tentatively agreed to several changes in the contract that give the company flexibility it claims to need. But in the cases of sick time and part-time employee insurance, the Herald-Leader doesn't have a specific need. It doesn't have a financial problem. It simply wants to eliminate the bargaining process over two very important health-related issues.

We have a solid track record at this newspaper. McClatchy does not. This round of contract negotiations is not setting a good standard for this employer in our community.

Please help us send this message to the Herald-Leader and its McClatchy ownership: Be Fair With Employee Health Care! Go to www.fairnessatHL.com and sign our petition today! Also, you can send a letter to the editor urging the company to withdraw its unnecessary, hurtful demands for changes in our workers' sick time and part-time insurance agreements.

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