

THE Kentucky Kernel

Friday, September 30, 2005

Celebrating 34 years of independence

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Teacher discusses mining protest

Harlan County class worked to save Black Mountain

By Megan Boehnke
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

When four bus loads of junior high students armed with letters, petitions and signs pulled up to the Office of Surface Mining eight years ago, no one expected it.

"We saw all these little eyeballs staring out from between the Venetian blinds thinking, 'Oh my gosh, what is going on?'" said Judy Hensley, the students' science teacher.

The students traveled an hour and a half from their school in Harlan County to Middlesboro, Ky., to lobby for the protection of the tallest peak in Kentucky, Black Mountain.

Hensley spoke to education students at the Taylor Education Building on campus yesterday about her experience with her students as they pursued what began as a class project.

Despite the state and federal mandates to teach students a core curriculum, Hensley said she believed it was the teacher's responsibility to encourage students to think independently and help them recognize their ability to affect change.

"The most important thing you do in the classroom is teach your students how to think," she said. "Not everyone has the same talent and the same gift and not everyone cares about the same issues, but as teachers, you have the opportunity to let your children learn how to think and express respectfully what their idea and opinions are no matter what they are."

It is this philosophy that prompts Hensley to encourage her students to pursue a class project every year. Students have done everything from collecting and publishing local history to developing Web sites about "girls doing science."

But what began in 1999 as a class project

See Coal on page 2

Confirmed, Roberts takes oath

After 78-22 vote in Senate, Roberts is Chief Justice

By Charles Babington and Peter Baker
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — John Glover Roberts Jr. was sworn in as the 17th chief justice of the United States Thursday, enabling President Bush to put his stamp on the Supreme Court for decades to come, even as he prepares to name a second nominee to the nine-member court.

The White House swearing-in ceremony took place three hours after the Senate voted 78 to 22 to confirm Roberts. All 55 Republicans, half the 44 Democrats and independent Sen. James Jeffords of Vermont voted yes.

The vote reflected the gap between many Senate Democrats and the liberal groups that strongly opposed Roberts and are important to the party's base. Senators in both parties predicted a much more bruising fight over Bush's upcoming choice to replace centrist justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Liberal activists said they will expect more spirited opposition from rank-and-file Democrats, but some Republicans said the relative ease of Roberts's confirmation suggests that opponents will find it extremely difficult to block anyone picked by Bush.

Roberts, 50, will take the justices' center seat that his mentor, the late William Rehnquist, held for 19 years when the Supreme Court opens its new session Monday. "The Senate has confirmed a

See Roberts on page 2

Rock, paper, scissors Dueling Digits



Michelle Zendarski, a psychology sophomore and 'Keeper of Peace,' referees a match between Andrea Coates, an integrated strategic communication and art studio senior and 'Minister of Propaganda,' and Dane Dickmann, a telecommunications sophomore and Vice President, at the first meeting of the Rock, Paper, Scissors Club Wednesday at the Student Center.

Students form new club for serious competition in the classic schoolyard game of rock, paper, scissors

By Ian Conley
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

You remember the rules: Rock beats scissors, scissors beat paper and paper beats rock. How could you forget?

But for a group of UK students, this game is more than just a childhood memory.

The UK Rock Paper Scissors Club held its first meeting Wednesday night. Yes, they're a registered student organization and, yes, they are serious.

"My friends and I started a club at the University of Florida," said Danny Hackmann, RPS club president. "So when I came up here to start medical school I thought I'd start it up again."

The competition is intense. Think Sylvester Stallone's seminal film "Over the Top," only fast and furious hand gestures thrown into open palms instead of arm wrestling. But how can a game that's played mostly as a way to pick an odd man out between friends be considered a competitive game of skill?

"It's not a game of chance," Hackmann said. "There's no chance in this game; it's one person's wit against someone else's."

A few people agree with Hack-

Rock, Paper, Scissors Club

When: Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Student Center

Contact: Danny Hackmann Haxd7@yahoo.com

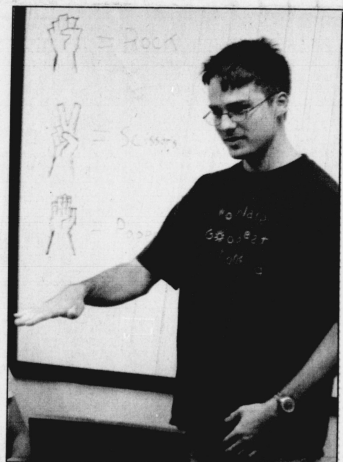
mann. There's a rock, paper, scissors rulebook and an international world championship tournament, held next month in Toronto. The club is planning to attend and is in the midst of intensive training.

There are several strategies and tactics to overcome one's opponent, many of which were discussed during Wednesday's meeting. A favorite is the Urban Strategy, a method of instilling false confidence in your opponent by intentionally losing the first round out of three.

Also, and this is important, don't fall victim to "rock jaw," the chronic condition of tensing your jaw muscles just before you throw a rock. It's a dead give away.

The evening also offered a recap of the rules and regulations of competitive RPS. It is absolutely imperative, for instance, to remember that vertical paper throws are not allowed

See Hand on page 2



First year medical student Danny Hackmann, president of the UK Rock, Paper, Scissors Club, goes over the basics at the club's first meeting on Wednesday at the Student Center.

"It's not a game of chance ... it's one person's wit against someone else's."

Danny Hackmann, president of the UK Rock, Paper, Scissor Club

Students volunteer expertise

Pharmacy students will answer questions at local health fair

By April Watkins
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

A group of UK pharmacy students will instruct Lexington residents on the proper use of medications at a "brown bag" booth part of a community health fair tomorrow.

Members of the community are invited to bring medications to a UK booth at "Health Fair with Flair," located at Leesport Middle School on Leesport Road. The students will answer questions concerning the

safe use of medications with local residents.

The event is organized by Lexington's First Baptist Church Bracktown and is free to the public. The fair will feature free food and entertainment. Classes for men and women, teens, pre-teens and children will focus on health issues like cholesterol, high blood pressure, adult-onset diabetes, obesity and strokes. There will also be free eyebrow waxing, massages and aromatherapy.

Dr. Carrie Johnson, assis-

tant professor and student mentor with the pharmacy school, will be at the event to answer questions concerning medications.

Second year pharmacy school student Amanda Stark will be one of those helping on Saturday.

"My hope would be that the patients we talk to come away with a better sense of healthy behaviors and preventive measures in regards to their health," she said.

Stark said she has worked

See Health on page 2

Car bombings kill four U.S. soldiers, 40 civilians in Iraq

By Jackie Spinner
THE WASHINGTON POST

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Three suicide car bombs exploded Thursday evening in crowded public places in the northern town of Balad, killing at least 40 people, according to police and local health officials.

In the western town of Ramadi, meanwhile, a roadside bomb killed five U.S. Army soldiers assigned to a Marine unit, the military said yesterday in a

See Bomb on page 2

NEWS BRIEFS

Walk spreads awareness of Down Syndrome

Lexington's third annual Buddy Walk to promote awareness of Down Syndrome is being held Saturday at Keneland. Walkers may register on site at 8:30 a.m. The walk begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information on how to participate, visit www.dsack.org or call 252-9523.

Health conference brings international speakers

The Global Public Health Conference, sponsored by the UK Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce and the College of Public Health, will be held Friday and Saturday. Each year the Patterson School hosts a major conference, although the topics and partners of the event change.

The conference will be held at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort on Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This part of the conference is for students of the Patterson School and College of Public Health only. The Friday and Saturday portions of the conference will consist of a series of panel discussions as well as other addresses. Speakers for the weekend portion of the conference include Barbara DeBuono, senior medical director at Phiz-

er, Ron O'Connor, founder of Management Sciences for Health; Jim Haveman, senior advisor for the Coalition Provisional Authority to the Iraqi Ministry of Health; Anne Peterson, former assistant administrator for Global Health, USAID; Peter Drotman, editor-in-chief, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Larry Altman, senior medical writer at the New York Times.

COMPILED FROM STAFF REPORTS

Rock

Continued from page 1

(your wrist must be at a 90 degree angle, either palm up or down).

Not unlike Project Mayhem in "Fight Club," RPS club members are expected to complete challenges between monthly meetings. This month, mem-

bers must challenge a teacher to a duel as well as randomly accost a business man on the street with their RPS skills. Most people don't seem to mind, though, said Dane Dickmann, RPS club vice president.

"You just get people playing and they're like 'whatever' at first," Dickmann said. "Then they just start loving it and challenging other people."

Hackmann noted that people sometimes don't quite know what to make of

the club when he mentions it.

"It's one of two reactions," Hackmann said. "It's either complete confusion or total excitement."

Undeclared freshman Jeremy Fritz was in disbelief when he learned of the club.

"I was taken aback," Fritz admitted. "I told my friends, 'We need to be a part of this.'"

E-mail features@kykernel.com

Coal

Continued from page 1

ject of students writing letters to Office of Surface Mining soon escalated.

It didn't take long for local media to pick up the story.

The Associated Press, the Lexington Herald-Leader and the Courier-Journal soon followed, and Nightline, a national news program, picked up the story and visited the students in their classroom for interviews.

Still, Hensley said yesterday that she wanted students to understand the importance placed on the educational process maintained in the class project.

She made an effort for her seventh grade students to hear all sides of the issue before making decisions. Students heard from officials from the Office of Surface Mining who visited their classroom as well as one student whose father was an engineer for the mining company.

"As a part of the educational

process, we needed to hear from everybody," she said. "We needed to hear the pros and the cons, we needed to hear from the professionals and the people in the community and we needed to sound facts before students made decisions about what they wanted to do."

As the issue continued to grow, the students gained support from Kentuckians for the Commonwealth along with students and faculty from UK, EKVU, Berea College and Union College.

The Wallins Elementary students were invited to speak before legislators in Frankfort, the first time any of them had ever been to the state's Capitol, but it didn't come without resistance.

"When we were heading to Frankfort that morning and I had the kids ready to head on the buses, I was met with, 'You're not going anywhere,'" Hensley said. She then called the superintendent who eventually permitted the students continue their field trip since they were part of the day's presentation and expected by legislators.

"The school board was afraid because the people in the mining industry were putting pressure on them to shut

this thing down," she said.

"We are in the middle of coal country. We had people who worked for the coal company whose children were working on the project. They actually had representatives from the coal company who said, 'If I see your kid's face on TV, if I see their name in the paper one more time, you can kiss your job goodbye. They made a lot of threats to me and other people, but in the end, the kids were still willing to press on because they felt like people were listening and they didn't want to stop in the middle of it.'"

In the end, the coal companies and environmentalists reached an agreement announced in a formal press release at Wallins Elementary School that they would preserve of 22,000 acres of forest at the top of Black Mountain. While Hensley said that while it still bothers her that much of the bottom part of the mountain is being mined, its peak is protected.

For that, she is proud of her students.

E-mail mboehnke@kykernel.com

Roberts

Continued from page 1

man with an astute mind and a kind heart," Bush said at the swearing-in. Roberts "will be prominent in exercising judicial power, firm in defending judicial independence and, above all, a faithful guardian of the Constitution."

The Senate Democrats' 22-22 split illuminated the influence that presidential politics and red-state, blue-state considerations play in a party struggling to end nearly a decade of unbroken GOP control of Congress.

Among those opposing Roberts were presidential aspirants who typically veer to the center but now are eyeing the liberal activist groups that will play key roles in Iowa, New Hampshire and other early-voting states in 2008. They included Sens. Evan Bayh of Indiana, Joseph Biden of Delaware and Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York.

Also voting no were two senators facing potentially tough re-elections next year in states with powerful left-leaning groups: Maria Cantwell of Washington and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan.

Democrats voting for Roberts included several facing re-election next year in states that Bush carried twice:

Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Bill Nelson of Florida, Robert Byrd of West Virginia and Kent Conrad of North Dakota.

These and other red-state Democrats who backed Roberts pose the biggest challenge to liberals hoping for a united party front if Bush nominates a staunch conservative next.

Those activists took some comfort Thursday in the belief that Roberts's conservatism will be similar to Rehnquist's and therefore the court will change little politically.

The stakes are far higher for the next pick, they said, because O'Connor provided the swing vote on many 5-4 decisions. O'Connor will remain on the court until her successor is confirmed.

Health

Continued from page 1

with health fairs before and is looking forward to working with other health care professionals to promote teamwork in the Lexington community.

Gwen Mentor, the head of the Bethesda Health Ministry within the First Baptist Church Bracktown, was responsible for coordinating the event. Mentor, who hopes for a large turnout for the biennial event, said her church sees the fair as a way to get local businesses involved in giving back to the community.

"We are looking at improving the whole person," she said. "It gives you a holistic view of the whole body."

"I really wanted to do something for the community. We are trying to cross ethnic backgrounds."

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. and lasts until 4 p.m. The Lexington Lions Club will be offering free eye exams and hearing tests as well as free prostate exams from Saint Joseph's Hospital and the Sterling Men's Clinic.

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Bomb

Continued from page 1

statement.

It was the deadliest single attack on American troops in several months. The soldiers were conducting combat operations on Wednesday when the bomb went off, the military said.

The three explosions in Balad, which appeared to have been coordinated, all occurred within the space of an hour, police said. At 6:50 p.m., just as the light faded from pink to black, the first bomb exploded in a crowded vegetable market.

Twenty-five minutes later, another bomber struck at the Moat Gate near a Shiite mosque where a meeting was taking place. About a half-hour later, a car bomb detonated on Bank Street.

Qasim Hazim Qaisi, a physician at the main hospital in Balad, said that 40 people — all civilians — were confirmed dead but that he expected the toll to rise.

"We found 40 intact bodies, but we have many legs and hands and arms, and more are seriously wounded," Qaisi said in a telephone interview.

Late last night, al-Arabiya television reported that 65 people had been killed.

Although it was not immediately clear who had carried out the attacks, Balad is populated mostly by Shiites but is situated inside Iraq's Sunni Triangle, about 50 miles north of Baghdad.

Recent violence in Iraq has taken on an increasingly sectarian cast, with the Sunni-dominated insurgency attacking Shiite civilians and targets associated with Iraq's Shiite-led government.

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Photo by Mike Photography, Entomology Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Photo by Mike Photography, Entomology Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.

Art professor analyzes South

By Sarah Whitfield
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Dr. Nicholas Mirzoeff, professor of art and art professions at New York University, delivered his lecture, "What is Contemporary now? The Place of the South" to nearly 60 people in the Centre Theater of the Student Center last night with about half of the audience compiled of students and the other of adults.

Mirzoeff, who has published many books, with the most recent being "Watching Babylon: The War in Iraq and Global Visual Culture," feels civil rights have been set aside unnecessarily and replaced by issues of national security that are facing our nation today. This lack of emphasis on civil rights has been detrimental to the South and is integral in explaining where the South is now, he said.

"The South is a place of fragments," said Mirzoeff, who described the South as being behind the North geographically and socio-economically. "If there's one thing that we've learned from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, it made that publicly visible to all of us."

Caitlin Heinz, a senior art studio major whose AS 200 class has been discussing post-modern art in the contemporary, was excited for Mirzoeff's visit to UK.

"I felt very privileged to come and hear him speak," said Heinz.

Many of Heinz's AS 200 classmates came also to hear Mirzoeff's lecture as well.

Caitlin Phillips, a senior art studio major, also enjoyed Mirzoeff's lecture and encouraged others to attend the workshop Friday.

Mirzoeff's lecture Friday afternoon will focus on his



Dr. Nicholas Mirzoeff lectures in the Student Center's Centre Theatre last night as part of the Visiting Artist Series.

If you go

What: Workshop with Nicholas Mirzoeff

When: 1:30pm-3:30pm

Where: Tuska Center for Contemporary Arts (Fine Arts Building, use the Rose Street entrance)

How much: Admission is free

"The South is a place of fragments."

Dr. Nicholas Mirzoeff
Art professor at New York University

recent essay "Invisible Empire: The Spectacle of Abu Ghraib."

Mirzoeff will be speaking Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Tuska Center for Contemporary Art in the Fine Arts building. Those interested in attending are asked to use the Rose Street entrance to the Fine Arts building. Admission to the workshop is free.

Mirzoeff said the abuses that took place in Iraq are vitally important to the discussion because these images are constantly being suppressed in our mass media because much of our society avoids asking these ques-

tions. "Why did the presidential candidates in the 2004 election never once mention the Abu Ghraib case?" Mirzoeff said.

Mirzoeff's lecture will examine some specific incidents at Abu Ghraib prison. Mirzoeff encourages students to come to the workshop Friday because these are issues that are affecting them, he said.

"Why did the photographs that came out of Abu Ghraib have so little effect?" asked Mirzoeff. "What happened and why were there so few images produced in the media?"

E-mail

features@kykernel.com

Krystal Ball

Staff picks for the weekend of
Oct. 1, 2005



Megan Boehnke (22-6)

Last week: 6-1

Florida 27 Alabama 17
USC 35 Arizona St. 21
Michigan St. 27 Michigan 24
Notre Dame 17 Purdue 14
Auburn 28 South Carolina 14
Wisconsin 31 Indiana 17
Nebraska 24 Iowa St. 10

Andrew Martin (22-6)

Last week: 6-1

Florida 21 Alabama 14
USC 42 Arizona St. 24
Michigan St. 24 Michigan 21
Notre Dame 35 Purdue 21
Auburn 42 South Carolina 28
Wisconsin 34 Indiana 17
Iowa St. 24 Nebraska 21

Doug Scott (22-6)

Last week: 7-0

Florida 28 Alabama 21
USC 49 Arizona St. 6
Michigan St. 42 Michigan 14
Notre Dame 36 Purdue 3
Auburn 36 South Carolina 12

Wisconsin 30 Indiana 7
Iowa St. 21 Nebraska 0

Josh Sullivan (22-6)

Last week: 7-0

Florida 28 Alabama 17
USC 46 Arizona St. 10
Michigan St. 17 Michigan 14
Purdue 24 Notre Dame 21
Auburn 21 South Carolina 20
Wisconsin 35 Indiana 21
Iowa St. 17 Nebraska 13

Chris Johnson (21-7)

Last week: 6-1

Florida 24 Alabama 17
USC 31 Arizona St. 13
Michigan 21 Michigan St. 20
Notre Dame 41 Purdue 38
Auburn 31 South Carolina 17
Wisconsin 42 Indiana 20
Iowa St. 31 Nebraska 21

Derek Poore (21-7)

Last week: 6-1

Florida 31 Alabama 23
USC 41 Arizona St. 24

Michigan St. 20 Michigan 17
Notre Dame 17 Purdue 14
Auburn 26 South Carolina 20
Wisconsin 38 Indiana 13
Nebraska 20 Iowa St. 13

Hilly Schiffer (20-8)

Last week: 6-1

Florida 24 Alabama 17
USC 21 Arizona State 7
Michigan State 42 Michigan 35
Purdue 21 Notre Dame 17
South Carolina 28 Auburn 24
Wisconsin 14 Indiana 7
Nebraska 24 Iowa State 17

Adam Sichko (20-8)

Last week: 6-1

Florida 42 Alabama 28
USC 49 Arizona State 45
Michigan 24 Michigan State 23
Notre Dame 28 Purdue 21
Auburn 35 South Carolina 24
Wisconsin 42 Indiana 10
Nebraska 21 Iowa State 19

Tim Wiseman (19-9)

Last week: 6-1

Florida 27 Alabama 24
USC 35 Arizona St. 24
Michigan St. 21 Michigan 20
Notre Dame 24 Purdue 21
Auburn 17 South Carolina 7
Wisconsin 21 Indiana 10
Iowa St. 14 Nebraska 9

THE KERNEL ONLINE EDITION

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NEWS FEATURES SPORTS OPINIONS

Scavenger Hunt

Here's your first challenge!

The first person to bring the following items to the Kernel office in the basement of Grehan Journalism building, Room 26 will reserve their seats.

- 1) A country music CD
- 2) a blue sock
- 3) a pillow
- 4) a cowboy hat
- 5) a plastic fork
- 6) a graded assignment

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!!!



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Answers tomorrow

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Answer: When she got married, she went home - MAIDEN TO MARD



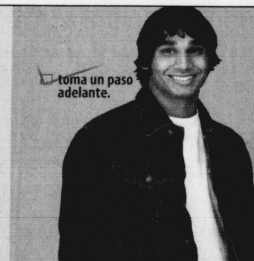
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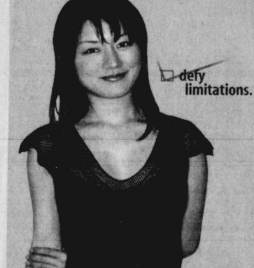


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IN OUR OPINION

SG's pay raise needs scrutiny

Wednesday night, the Student Government Senate passed a budget that increased the Executive Support Staff fund, which pays the stipends and scholarships of the SG executive staff, by \$2,500 to \$13,500.

SG President Becky Ellingsworth and her staff may be tempted to rejoice. But the more money that goes into the fund, the fewer excuses they have to be lazy, invisible or incompetent.

We understand that SG officials' duties can preclude them from holding other jobs, which is why they receive stipends. But that means SG should be a job, not a hobby, for them — and that they should be putting as much time into it as they would a typical job.

If they do not do their work, then they're not going to get paid for it," Ellingsworth said to the Kernel. She should live up to her words: There's no excuse to let students' money go into the pockets of people who aren't doing a good job.

If Ellingsworth and her staff members are not incompetent, she should fire them and either hire qualified people or eliminate the position altogether, and see that the money is put into SG's scholarship fund. Paying for a string of worthless cronies is just as much a waste to students as paying for ones spending on scholarships, on the other hand, would be a great use of money if SG can't spend it responsibly.

One of the reasons for the

fund increase was the addition of a webmaster, meaning SG no longer has any excuse for continuing the tradition of having a pathetically uninformative Web site — or of the site not existing at all, as is the case now.

We recommend that the Ellingsworth administration steal a page from the Tommy Cunningham platform and update the Web site daily, making it the definitive place for students to know what's going on both with SG and all around campus.

Scholarships and stipends are necessary, but they must be used discreetly.

The webmaster could also spend time looking into how to implement on-line voting in the SG elections this spring.

In addition, Ellingsworth's entire staff should work hard to make sure students know what SG is doing.

Many students believe the organization does nothing but sponsor large events like Homecoming and Gator Roast; it would be in SG's interest to prove that notion wrong by vigorously communicating about its activities and agenda.

Finally, students need to be aware of the fact that their money is going into SG officials' pockets and hold them accountable for the job they do. Many complain about SG wasting our money, but few — roughly 10 percent annually — show up at the polls to voice their opinion in a way that could make a difference.

If we don't start holding SG officials accountable for the amount they make, maybe we deserve to have our money wasted.

Too bad divine vengeance isn't exacted on stupidity

The past month has brought about a lot of finger pointing in regards to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Local, state and national officials and agencies have had the buck passed back and forth between them. Even the cause of the hurricane has been pinned on everything from President Bush to global warming. But there was a crucial part of this nation-wide blame game missing.



Doug Scott
KERNEL COLUMNIST

I have been writing, practically on pins and needles, for an outlandish reaction to Hurricane Katrina from the religious right. I couldn't fathom a historic disaster of biblical proportions without some sort of holy venom spewing forth from a disgruntled Bible-beater.

Surely someone would follow the precedent set by the Rev. Jerry Falwell when, immediately after Sept. 11, he said the God had lifted "the veil of protection which has allowed no one to attack America on our soil since 1812" and blamed the attacks on "pagans," "abortionists," feminists, gays and lesbians. But as the floodwaters receded and the chaos subsided, I came to terms with the fact that another Southern preacher had missed his chance to become the bane of my existence.

And then, like manna from heaven, it happened. Alabama State Sen. Hank Erwin, R-Montevallo, wrote in a column that he distributed to news outlets this week that blamed the hurricanes and the devastation wrought on the Gulf Coast on the sinful behavior of Americans.

"New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast have always been known for gambling, sin and wickedness," said Erwin in his column. "It is the kind of behavior that ultimately brings the judgment of God."

You have got to be kidding me. Is this guy serious? Maybe, after he finished writing his column, he was swallowed by a whale, because that makes sense, too.

If sins such as gambling or sexual deviancy are enough to bring about the wrath of God, then why haven't college campuses across the nation been showered with fire and brimstone? Or cities like Las Vegas or Atlantic City? Since when did blackjack and one-night stands warrant the vengeance of the Almighty?

It'd be one thing if a hurricane hit somewhere that it shouldn't, like Detroit. Then, I guess you could hypothesize that God doesn't like the Pistons. But when a hurricane hits a coastal city during hurricane season, I think the crisis is best ascribed to low and high-altitude pressure gradients, convergent wind patterns, the cyclical condensation and evaporation of warm, humid air over the ocean and natural weather patterns.

"Warnings year after year by godly evangelists and preachers went unheeded. So why were we surprised when finally the hand of judgment fell?" Erwin said. "Sadly, innocents suffered along with the guilty. Sin always brings suffering to good people as well as the bad."

Christianity is founded on the principal that one's sins, no matter how severe, have already been suffered for. To suggest that God has reverted to some sort of vindictive cosmic mean streak vis-a-vis the Old Testament because Americans are falling victim to inherent human weaknesses contradicts the basis tenets of the belief. Christians believe that one day, all will be judged accordingly. Apparently, Erwin missed the memo. Or rather, he chose to ignore it.

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



BRAD STURGEON, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mandatory insurance beneficial

While I applaud the efforts to educate UK students on health insurance needs in the Sept. 29 Kernel editorial, "Health Insurance a Must for Students," I found it troubling that the authors failed to realize the benefits of mandatory health insurance for students.

True, when one first hears "mandatory," there comes to mind extra costs or perhaps fewer options in insurance plans. However, it is important for students and administrators to know the real effects of a mandatory insurance policy. First, financial aid packages for students will reflect the additional costs of insurance and will make them eligible for more funding. The relatively low cost of student insurance is worth the extra funds now, as students will learn when they experience employer-sponsored plan costs in their first jobs. This means that insurance will be more accessible to disadvantaged students.

Second, mandatory insurance plans increase the risk pool, which lowers or stabilizes premium costs for everyone.

Finally, those students who are already covered by an employer or their parents' plans will still be able to maintain that coverage. Anyway, if all it takes is a few comments to get the UK Police to take some action to actually enforce laws, then here are some real complaints by yours truly that I am going to forward to the UK police. I encourage you to do the same.

LINDSAY JOSEPH
public health graduate student

Suggestions for UK police

The longer I am at this university, the more things seem like they are upside down. I am not anti-police by any means, but I can't believe that the UK police would target people on bicycles. The reason given was an increase in complaints by students and faculty. With gas \$3 per gallon, of course there are going to be more bicycles.

So by citing cyclists, does that \$25 fine go to help offset the UKPD's fuel budget? Anyway, if all it takes is a few complaints to get the UK Police to take some action to actually enforce laws, then here are some real complaints by yours truly that I am going to forward to the UK police. I encourage you to do the same.

The police could issue lots of citations, thus bringing in lots of revenue by:

- Patrolling Rose Street, Limestone Street and Euclid Avenue for traffic violations and jaywalkers.
- Staking out campus buildings and cite people for littering.
- Conducting a major sting operation to bust people for throwing cigarette butts out of their car windows.
- Citing vehicles riding or parked in bike lanes.
- Citing residents for leaving Herbies, Lennies and Rosies, the city's trash cans, on the street and sidewalks. You can't walk or ride a bicycle down Woodland Avenue because of these obstructions.
- Citing cars parked on sidewalks.
- Citing people standing on sidewalks (they are side-WALKERS).
- Citing people sleeping on sidewalks (take a walk past Memorial Coliseum).
- Citing people wearing spandex (biker shorts) while biking, running, walking or working out (indecent exposure).

JERROD PACE
kinesiology and health promotion senior

Add bike parking to student woes

The UK Department of Parking and Transportation has recently started confiscating bicycles and ticketing cyclists for violations. The fee is going to run you \$25.00.

Ridiculous! Oil companies cashing in from soaring gas prices are bad enough, but now our own university wants to cash in on the students who choose alternate methods of transportation. If your bike is impounded, you will have to go to the UK Parking and Transportation office to pay the fine, but here you will find out that they have cut your security chain and aren't going to reimburse you for it.

I am not up to date on all of the applicable laws, but I am pretty damn sure that this constitutes as destruction of private property. If they tow your vehicle, they don't destroy it, and if they do then it is the towing party not responsible for damages? Chains aren't cheap either; a good coil chain or solid locking bar chain can run upwards of \$50 or so to replace. This cost, of course, is on top of the \$25 you pay to get

your bicycle and destroyed chain back.

This is just another way for students to know that UK doesn't really consider its students to be important. President Lee Todd and the committee members are too infatuated with "becoming a top-20 school" to care much for their current students. Many of you may not know that ranking better in the scheme of schools doesn't depend on enrolled student performance; no, it is based upon several aspects including drawing big-name professors, professor publications, entrance exclusivity, funding and research. I always thought that the student was the most important part of any academic institution; I guess the board didn't get the memo.

The new bicycle law is really just another small factor helping to disenfranchise students from an already sorry state of mind, following Student Government troubles and parking woes. UK might be "on its way up"; I just hope President Todd doesn't leave the students behind in his wake.

JEREMIAH OSBORNE-BAKER
forestry junior

EDITOR'S NOTE: UK Parking and Transportation has clarified that the bicycle law in question is far from new, and that the recent increase of bicycles on campus has only highlighted the issue.

Respect religious beliefs of others

Have people forgotten our trusty constitution that our founding fathers had so brilliantly created to ensure, that we enjoy peace, prosperity and a higher quality of life?

Come on people, do we have to go back to U. S. History 101? Not only are our government and people trying to remove God from our country — forget the fact that it is the very same God that our founding fathers referred to while establishing this great nation, but now people are growing intolerant and insensitive to other people's religious beliefs.

Here's an example: I was sitting around with a group of friends, and we were discussing the Bible and speaking about our Christian faith. We were hardly speaking loud enough to hear our own voices. Then we heard a group of three students, sitting close by, making comments and remarks in a very loud tone — so loud that we all heard it and could hardly hear the person in our group speaking.

I understand that we have rights to free speech, so I didn't have a problem with his opinions, which was him laughing out loud, staring at us and calling us "ridiculous." But when it interferes with me focusing and being able to audibly listen to our discussion, it's then that I feel my rights have been infringed.

It's not just about free speech, our Constitution and the right to practice any religion we choose. Let's be adults here. If you've got an opinion about another's beliefs, fine. You can feel that way, and I'll still respect you. But what I'm not OK with is doing it so disrespectfully of others without any care for their feelings. If it starts with religion, then the disrespect could go further into any form of discrimination. We as a nation have come too far for us to still have ancient, discriminatory, selfish and disrespectful views.

Again, I am not bothered by the comment made, but for the total lack of respect and acceptance of our other fellow students. Most of all, it's moments like these when I am even more thankful for what I believe in, because I would never purposely set out to hurt anyone's beliefs.

DONNA RAYYAN
English senior

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Andrew Martin or Assistant Opinions Editor Brenton Kenkel. Please limit letters to 350 words or fewer. Be sure to include your full name, class and major with all submissions.

E-MAIL opinions@kykernel.com

Cats stay cool after road losses

By Laura Melligan
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Ignore the score. Check the stats.

Junior goalie Drew Matchak's 79-save effort last weekend was a blessing in disguise.

"The biggest thing that we saw was that our talent level was as good as a Division I team's," said head coach Mike Sosnowski. "We matched them line to line with our effort. Our goaltending was outstanding. Where I thought we fell short was in our conditioning."

After two close losses to Division I Oklahoma and a 20-0 blowout win over Oklahoma State, the 22 Cool Cats are confident as they prepare to play Kennesaw State and Georgia this weekend.

Since the Sooners are a D-I team, they have the luxuries of their own rink and work-out facilities and are on the ice five nights a week, Sosnowski said. UK's team is a club, which means they get very little help from the university for these kinds of facilities.

Despite these differences, the Cool Cats put up a fight.

"We had a lot of scoring chances, and I think the game could have gone either way," said senior captain Chris Zaremski. "On Saturday night, it was 0-0 until the third period. It was disappointing that we had a chance to win, but knowing that we were right there with that goal of a team was a booster for us."

Even though both games ended in a loss, sophomore Mike Barnes said it was an opportunity to learn about themselves.

"Especially for the



UK's Division II hockey team lost two close games last week at D-I Oklahoma before pulverizing Oklahoma State 20-0. While in Oklahoma, Coach Mike Sosnowski took the team to the Oklahoma City bombing memorial.

younger guys, it was good for them to get the experience," Barnes said. "It's really important to get out and play a difficult team. We learned what it's going take for us to be a good hockey team."

That opportunity also gave them a lot of specifics to focus on in practice before playing Kennesaw State and Georgia.

"What we're doing to prepare for them is taking what we learned from Oklahoma," Sosnowski said. "If we use our speed and put pressure on their defense to make plays, we can create a lot of turnovers."

Zaremski said they've been working on making smart decisions with the puck and starting to react more to

pressure.

"We're starting to stress a lot more just sticking to our game plan, getting over the red line and putting the puck in," Zaremski said. "We're trying to play a little more physically."

But the highlight of the five-day road trip wasn't hockey, but a team-building exercise — a trip to the Oklahoma City bombing memorial.

"It was a good experience for all of us," Sosnowski said. "The competition is one thing, but when you go down and look at 198 empty chairs, it puts it all in perspective."

"We saw what really matters in the world."

Now that the team has gotten into the swing of things and had experiences like the

trip in Oklahoma, Barnes said teammates have reached a comfort level with each other.

"We're at a point now where we know where a guy is going to be without looking at him, which is such an advantage," Barnes said.

Now that the team is in place, the Cool Cats will use it to their advantage this weekend.

"Our game plan going into this weekend is to put the puck down low, put pressure on their defense, try to turn the puck over and shove it back down their throats," Sosnowski said. "We think we have the speed and the skill to be able to do that."

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Undefeated soccer starts SEC sojourn

By Ryan Wood
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The hunt for November's Southeastern Conference tournament in women's soccer begins now for UK and the rest of the SEC.

All 12 teams will be vying for a spot in the Orange Beach, Ala., tournament that begins next month.

The Cats (6-5, 1-0-1) take their school-record, 10-game unbeaten streak on a two-game road trip against conference foes.

Tonight at 8, UK faces Alabama (6-2-1, 0-1-1 SEC), followed by a trip to Auburn (2-5-1, 1-1 SEC) Sunday. Head coach Warren Lipka knows a great first half to the season doesn't mean anything if you don't earn the chance to play in the postseason.

"No game is ever taken lightly in conference play," he said. "The competition level is going to rise ... everyone has to qualify for the SEC tournament."

In November, everyone wants to be playing for the title in Orange Beach."

After this weekend, the Cats have a week to relax before traveling to Florida (6-2, 1-0-1 SEC) and South Carolina (6-4, 1-1 SEC) to finish the second leg of their four-game road trip.

Eight of the Cats' first 10 games were at home with two of their five ties coming on the road against Ohio State and Western Kentucky.

(Alabama) is going to be a different game for us," sophomore midfielder Sarah Gaunt said. "We're not going to be able to do as many

things as we have been, and things won't come as easy."

The Cats will look to switch things up against the Crimson Tide.

"We'll change formations," senior forward Courtney McCrudden said. "Three (at forward) might give us more opportunities."

McCrudden, Gaunt, and freshman forward Kate Hughes lead the team in scoring with four goals apiece. But the scoring doesn't stop there for the Cats, who have seen solid production from sophomore forward Callie Lanphier and freshmen midfielder Nicola Holdsworth, who each have three goals.

In all, UK has 10 different players with at least one goal.

"It's not only the upperclassmen scoring," said senior forward/defender Ash-

ley Schilling. "We've got players of all ages coming through for us. Our freshmen are scoring a lot of goals."

"Of course, conference play is totally different."

If the Cats win the SEC tournament in November, it would be only the second in school history — and it would earn them a bid into the NCAA championship.

Still the only undefeated team in the SEC — and heading into a stretch of four consecutive conference road games — UK hopes to stay focused and not overlook anyone.

"We don't take anyone lightly," Lipka said. "Everyone is to be feared when you start the game."

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Golfers take aim at strong field in home tourney

By Jennifer Jones
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Fifteen teams, including 2004 NCAA Division I national champion Duke and championship finalist Florida, will be in town this weekend for UK women's golf's only home match of the season at the University Club.

Head coach Stephanie Barker expects a strong field of competition this weekend.

"The top three teams from the east region will be here and they are all solid," she said.

Last weekend, UK had a good chance to compete, placing second at Louisville.

"We all played solid and had a good chance of winning," senior Ali Kicklighter said. "The last tournament helped us a lot with our confidence and this weekend we have the home court advantage."

Senior Erin Faulkner said that the team's season has gone well so far.

"We started off on a positive note," Faulkner said. "To prepare herself for this week-

end, she has used her time wisely and practiced a lot.

Entering her fourth season, Barker is pleased with the team's start this season.

"The team is working hard, they look confident, and they came off of a good summer," Barker said.

Barker selected Kicklighter and Faulkner to be the team captains this year and she expects them to lead by example with their commitment and their practice habits. She wants the captains to bring the team to the

next level, so that they will be a contender.

She said that the team has been doing a lot of individual work to prepare for this weekend.

"I want the team to give 100 percent on the course and in the classroom," Barker said. "I want them to spend their time wisely and to make good decisions ... we will have a good season if they do."

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