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THE Kentucky Kernel

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

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Provost finalist confident he's the man for the job

Kansas State engineering dean touts his ability to manage resources

By Sean Rose
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

In his public forum yesterday in the Student Center, Terry King, one of two finalists to become UK's highest-ranking academic official, said that with the right leadership, UK can reach its top-20 goal.

"I think this particular university is poised to achieve that vision," King said in the crowded Center Theatre. "The biggest challenge you have is aligning the resources."

For about an hour King, currently the dean of the College of Engineering at Kansas State University, spoke on his background, his vision for UK and then answered questions from the audi-

ence. President Lee Todd installed the provost system at UK after his inauguration in 2001. Mike Nietzel, UK's first provost, left in June to become the president of Southwest Missouri State University. Since that time, Scott Smith, dean of the College of Agriculture, has served as interim provost.

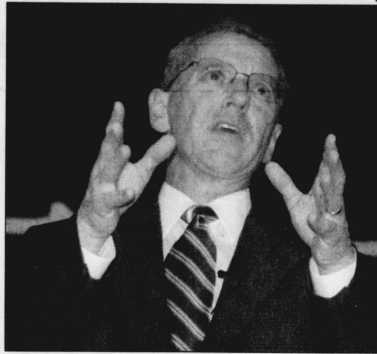
King said he can lead UK toward becoming a top-20 school with his ability to manage resources.

"You have to have a limited number of resources that have funding," King said. "Priorities without funding are not priorities at all."

"There's no magic to this; it's hard work," King said.

For UK to reach its top-20 goal, which King views as the most prevalent issue on campus, the

See Provost on page 2



Terry King, dean of the College of Engineering at Kansas State University, addresses a crowded Center Theatre yesterday, stating his case of why he should be UK's new provost.

Kumble Subbaswamy, a dean at Indiana University, is the other finalist. He visits UK next week.

JULIE FITZPATRICK STAFF

You lose that, you lose the trust of the state."

— Terry King, provost finalist, on concerns that UK's top-20 push would compromise the quality of undergraduate education

Legislators back Todd's Top 20 plan

By Megan Boehnke
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Several state legislators from the Lexington area said yesterday they support UK President Lee Todd's Top 20 Business Plan and pledged to help find the necessary funding for the university.

"I think every one of us in the Fayette County district want (Todd) to get the funding he needs," said Rep. Stan Lee, R-Fayette. Asked if the legislature would give UK the money that it's asking for, Lee said, "I think there's a good chance (of that)."

Todd presented his business plan in a public forum Monday. Todd outlined the cost to the state and the university to make UK a top-20 research university by the year 2020, as mandated in House Bill 1 of 1997.

In his plan, which will go before the Board of Trustees for approval Tuesday, Todd said he plans

See Top 20 on page 2

UK 71, NORTH CAROLINA A&T 40 Cats block A&T, break UK record

By Chris Detzel
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

North Carolina A&T kept shooting, and Sarah Elliott and her UK teammates kept swatting.

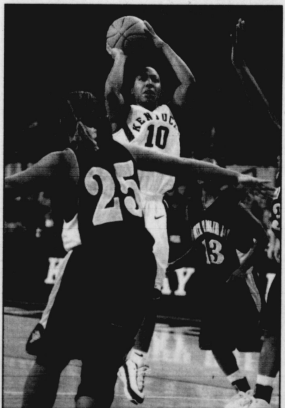
The Wildcat sophomore center led the block party all the way to the UK single-game record for team blocks with 19, tying the NCAA record in UK's 71-40 win over A&T last night. It also gave UK (6-0) their best start since the 1984-85 season.

"We've been getting our hands on a lot of shots," head coach Mickie DeMoss said. She said A&T was undersized, but UK was able to maintain discipline, not foul and challenge shots.

"(The record) is quite an accomplishment," DeMoss said.

Elliott noted the satisfying feeling of blocking a shot.

See Hoops on page 5



Junior guard Nastassia Alcius had 14 points in UK's 71-40 victory at home over North Carolina A&T last night.

UK 73, GEORGIA STATE 46

UK reserves play starters' roles in win

By Josh Sullivan
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

ATLANTA — Shagari Alleyne emerged from the far reaches of the bench — and head coach Tubby Smith's doghouse — to lead the UK men's basketball team to a 73-46 victory over the Georgia State Panthers in front of a highly partisan UK crowd in Phillips Arena.

After the Panthers jumped out to an 11-0 lead, Smith yanked all five of his starters. The Cats hadn't scored in the first four and a half minutes of the game, but Alleyne promptly threw down a dunk, sparking the UK reserves to their own 11-0 run to tie the game.

The 7-foot-3-inch junior, who spent the last several games languishing on the bench due to spotty play and academic trouble, scored six of his career-high 16 points during the run. He unveiled a new offensive weapon as well, nailing two jump hooks in the paint on two consecutive possessions.

"Getting the effort out of Shagari, we were pleased that he played the way he did," Smith said. "He was quick off his feet tonight. He can be a force inside."

Alleyne gave UK the lead for good with just under 10 minutes left in the first half, turning a pass from junior Rekalim Sims into another one-handed jam to put the Cats up 16-14.

He closed out UK's first half scoring by throwing down yet another dunk to send the Cats into the locker room with a 30-24 lead.

The bench accounted for all 30 of UK's first half points, so it was no surprise when Smith sent the same group out to begin the second half.

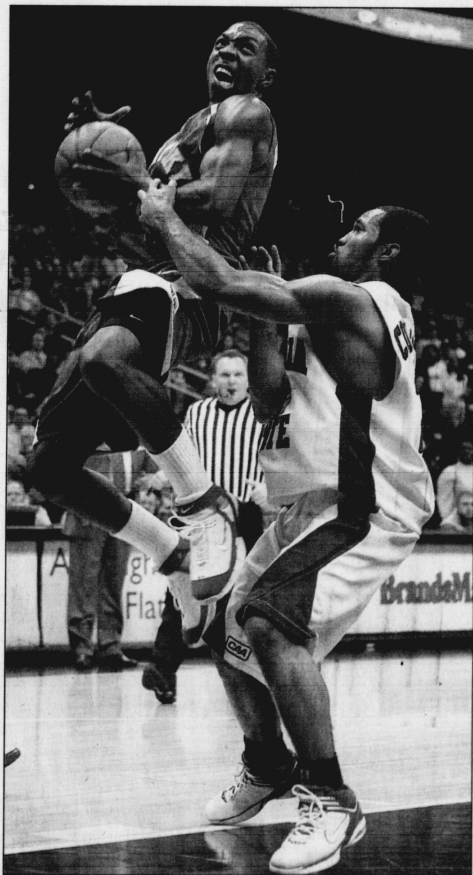
In fact, junior center Lukasz Obrzut's dunk eight minutes into the second half was the first time a starter found the points line in the box score.

"That group we brought in there really picked it up for us. They really gave us a lift," Smith said.

Sophomore guard Ramel Bradley came off the bench to play point guard for most of the night, stepping in for fellow sophomore Rajon Rondo, who sat out the game because of strep throat. He scored 12 points and pulled down a career-high seven rebounds while dishing out a game-high five assists.

Though they were without their star point guard, UK was bolstered by the return of Joe Crawford, who missed the last three games because of a sprained knee. The sophomore guard was a starter before his injury, but last night he came

See Cats on page 10



UK sophomore guard Ramel Bradley goes for a shot over Georgia State senior guard Boyd Copeland during the second half of UK's 73-46 win last night. Bradley finished with 12 points on the night.

Birds not causing usual campus troubles

By Amber Morgan
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Something is missing from the skies over and trees around campus.

Flocks of birds, the most numerous being Starlings, have been known to annually target and crowd UK's campus. So far this year, however, employees of UK's Physical Plant Division have found no need to use screamer rockets to scare away the nuisance of birds.

"They simply haven't come this year,"

said George Riddle of the Physical Plant Division. "My guess is that the weather hasn't gotten cold enough to where they feel they have to get warm."

The birds typically migrate to UK during the winter months, Riddle said.

"The birds will come to any place with a heat source for a place to roost," Riddle said. "The evergreens and magnolia trees by Pence (Hall) and Kastle Hall serve as their hot pockets. We happen to have a good habitat for them."

It also happens that parking lots and

sidewalks cross directly under many of the birds' favorite nesting trees, creating problems for those high-traffic areas.

"No one wants to walk through bird excrement," said Riddle. "If they defecate on the sidewalk and it rains, they get slippery."

Architecture technology senior Casey Lowe agreed.

"The sidewalks have become a mess, and not to mention the bacteria in the bird droppings that could cause illness."

See Birds on page 3

Top 20

Continued from page 1

to ask the state for a \$17.7 million increase in funding this year. UK calculated an annual tuition increase based on the amount of funding it receives from the state each year.

The Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education is requesting \$13.7 million for UK in its budget, which will be voted on in the next General Assembly session, beginning Jan. 3. That means UK must lobby for the other \$4 million, Todd said.

"We work on it all the time, and we actually did very well by (UK) in the last session," said Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr, R-Fayette. "It will be up to what monies are available."

"With UK being a landmark institution, I think they will fare very well," she

said. Increasing the quality of UK will help improve the entire state, Lee said.

"There's a correlation there, definitely," Lee said. "We in the Fletcher administration are making a concerted effort to bring high-tech jobs, and having a good caliber university here is invaluable — you have to have that."

In the first phase of the plan, Todd said it's necessary to "front-load" the budget. That means UK will actively pursue increases of

27 new faculty members each year for the next three years and freeze enrollment until the fall 2008 semester, helping improve UK's student-faculty ratio. Todd also said he will work to annually give a 5.5 percent raise to the faculty salary pools.

"If we don't show the kind of commitment Dr. Todd is asking for, we're going to lose more (faculty members)," said Sen. Ernesto Scorsone, D-Fayette.

"We've already lost quite a few good folks at the university, and the trend will continue unless we prove that we're behind the university. I personally know several good faculty members and researchers who have left."

Scorsone said he has spent a lot of time going over the plan with university officials and believes that

by pointing out what it will take to make UK a top research university, it will be easier for the legislature to accept the plan.

"I think the reception (from legislators) is good, as far as people want UK to be a top-20 institution," Scorsone

said. "(Todd is saying that this) has got to be a top priority for us, and I agree."

Todd said Monday that he had already made presentations to 40 or 50 legislators and that he understood the difficulty in trying to find the funding in the state's budget.

"We're going to have to sell it (to state legislators)," Todd said. "We have a responsibility for selling it."

I have a good feeling that they want to do this," he said. "It's a question of, how can we find the money, and what can we do to help them?"

Todd added that many legislators who voted for House Bill 1 in 1997 still feel "uncomfortable" today because the bill didn't create a plan for how UK would achieve that lofty goal.

"It's up to us to give them a plan," Todd said. "You've got to go out and show what you need."

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Provost

Continued from page 1

university must have a limited number of priorities, align resources behind those and make assessments of progress, he said.

King gave an example of how he increased faculty diversity in the College of Engineering college at Kansas State by rewarding the college for diversity hires by siphoning money from the salaries of retired faculty back to the college.

"I thought it was quite successful and it's still in place for next year," King said.

King took questions on the importance of diversity and gave four reasons for why it was valuable: a growing workforce needs more education; most all professions deal with creativity, and varied backgrounds add to that; businesses and industries strive to be diverse, so they tend to recruit from more diverse schools; and moral and ethical reasons.

King added that UK's

drop in black enrollment could be because of too much attention being given to ACT and SAT scores. He said that the scores were "a pretty lousy" indication for multicultural students.

A question came up about King's inexperience working with a medical school, to which King replied that he lacks practice in that area.

"I have to admit, I have a lot to learn," King said.

A student raised a question, concerned that some majors would suffer from King's plan to choose limited focus areas. King said all programs would improve with the top-20

business plan. "My sense is, if you can focus and find your way into this top-20 imperative, all areas will rise," King said.

He also responded to a concern that in UK's top-20 push, the university will lose its roots as a college open to Kentucky students as well as the nation's elite, and fall prey to large class sizes. King said the top-20 plan calls for

more faculty as well as students, and added that UK wouldn't lose sight of its mission as a public institution.

"We certainly would never want to compromise undergraduate education," King said. "You lose that, you lose the trust of the state."

King said he likes land-grant universities like UK and believes their mission is to educate the masses.

Political science junior Parker Reynolds said it seemed King's solution to most problems would be to "throw money at it," an idea Reynolds disagreed with. He also wished King had more developed plans.

"I wish he had more concrete ideas," Reynolds said, adding that King would do "a good job" if he became UK's next provost.

Claire Carpenter, support staff for UK's Blackboard system, also said King would do well in the position.

"I thought he was very articulate," Carpenter said. "He would bring a lot of clear thinking to the process

of being provost."

Carpenter said King's inexperience with medical schools could be a concern for some people.

Physics professor Mike Cavagnero said King was well-qualified, despite his lack of exposure to some aspects of UK.

"He admitted when he did not know things," Cavagnero said. "I think that was the right approach."

"What you look for is someone who's a good problem solver and who's personable and who has an open mind," Cavagnero said. "The second provost candidate, Kumble Subbaswamy, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University, will visit UK Monday for his forum. Subbaswamy previously worked at UK from 1978 to 1997, at one point serving as chair of the physics and astronomy department."

King said Subbaswamy's previous stint at UK doesn't give him an advantage. "Hopefully, my experience at other institutions will have value here," King said.

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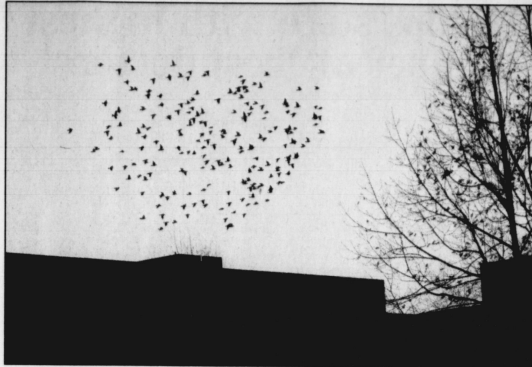
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Birds

Continued from page 1

he said. Many of the birds carry a fungus on their feathers which can cause a lung disease called histoplasmosis, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to the Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety, droppings from pigeons, starlings, bats and chickens support the growth of the bacteria. If the multiplication of the spores becomes small enough, it is possible to inhale the spores, which can enter the lungs and start an infection. In severe cases, it can produce an illness similar to tuberculosis. When faced with these problems, horticulturalists and experts on campus do not delay in taking action to scare them with the noise of screamer rockets. "We station different people to places we predict the birds are likely to go back to," said Riddle. "We never actually fully get rid of the birds. We try to battle them, making it continually uncomfortable for them." Perhaps the birds have not come back this year because of the uncomfortably loud noise. But for as far back as he can remember, UK horticulturalist Jerry Hart

has experienced the hassle of trying to "scream" away the birds. "I've been here 14 years and we have had to do it every year but this one," Hart said. He said the lack of flocks may have to do with the recent business expansion in the Hamburg area. "The development on the east side of town in the last four to six years created more hot pockets from the buildings," he said. Wherever the birds may go, further action to keep them from making trouble on campus is considered imperative, Riddle said. "I take my budget and fit it in," he said. "Because of the potential health factor, it is something that has to be done." Students said being rid of the birds was worth the noise. "I'd rather hear some screaming rockets than get bird droppings on my car," said mechanical engineering senior Ryan Smalley. That is the very idea UK's Plant Division has had to implement every year until now. Whether it is the odd weather patterns, loud rockets or booming business all over town, Riddle is relieved and thankful that the birds have not crowded campus yet. "We count our blessings every day," he said.



A flock of birds circles in unison over St. Joseph's Hospital at dusk yesterday. Typically, several varieties of birds, including starlings, roost on UK's campus during the winter near heating sources. In past years, UK's Physical Plant Division has fired "screamers" to chase the birds off campus, but so far, the birds haven't come this year. And for that, "we count our blessings every day," said George Riddle of the Physical Plant Division.

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UK tops state with highest number of 'best doctors'

By Sarah Knight
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Sixty-four doctors at UK's Chandler Medical Center have been added to 2005's Best Doctors in America list.

The physicians were nominated by their peers for their excellent reputations, clinical work and written literature, through a survey conducted by Best Doctors Inc. More than 31,000 physicians were surveyed and asked, "If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer them?"

UK ranks No. 1 in the state for doctors listed this year. Their names will be published in a book which allows patients to look up the best physicians and specialists in their area.

"Doctors at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center not only look for the best now, but we focus on pushing medicine forward in the future," said Dr. Michael Karpf, executive vice president for health affairs.

Doctors have been recruited from around the country so patients at the Medical Center will have access to the best health care available, Karpf said. This

has played a key role in increasing the number of physicians at UK honored in this year's list of best doctors, with specialties including pediatrics, neurology and plastic surgery.

Dr. Jay Perman, dean of the College of Medicine and a pediatric specialist, was one of those named to the list.

"More important than any other quality in a doctor is the ability to listen to your patients," Perman said.

His attitude toward his patients, consistency in demonstrating excellence and continued dedication to the profession has brought him recognition not only from his patients but also from his peers.

Like most doctors, Perman said he entered the profession as a way to make a difference every day. But Perman also said other doctors — both on and off the list — deserve recognition.

"There are many more 'Best Doctors' at the University of Kentucky than just those recognized nationally," Perman said.

Dr. Steven Steinhubl, a cardiologist at the medical center, was also named to the list.

Steinhubl graduated

with a degree in chemical engineering but after volunteering in Rochester, N.Y., he decided to become a doctor.

"I thought that helping people every day would be a lot more rewarding than a career in chemical engineering," Steinhubl said.

Comparing the Best Doctors award to the Oscars, Steinhubl said, "It is an honor just to be nominated." He admits that he is fortunate and can't help but be flattered.

"It is very humbling," he said.

Steinhubl was honored for his bedside manner and patient care.

"Every patient is different and responds differently to treatment," he said. "You have to treat a patient as a person rather than as a diagnosis."

Like Perman, Steinhubl acknowledged his fellow physicians who have not received the recognition that this award can bring.

"Some of the best doctors that I have ever worked with have been at the University of Kentucky," Steinhubl said.

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UK rehab program ranks sixth globally

By Brandy Gillenwater
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

UK's Rehabilitation Counseling Program was recently ranked sixth out of 901 international institutions for research publications.

The Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin, a leading journal in the counseling field, examined the number of articles produced by each institution between 1997 and 2002. These articles had to be peer-reviewed and recommended before publication. With four full-time faculty members, UK had 50 articles published.

"It is important to conduct research for needs that exist in the community," said Ralph Crystal, the program's coordinator.

The UK College of Education Rehabilitation Counseling Program is a master's or doctoral program that trains students to understand physical, emotional, cultural and economic disabilities to better assist with vocational planning and accommodating workplaces.

Students get hands-on training experience working with people with disabilities. They can also work with faculty on their research, and participate in grant opportunities that pay full tuition and monthly stipends.

"Our work is responsive to issues of substance abuse, HIV, cultural diversity and quality of life," Crystal said.

There is a large demand for workers in this field and graduates can be employed in a variety of settings including state agencies, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities and private businesses, Crystal said.

The only prize for the ranking is recognition,

Leading Institutions

- 1 Arkansas University
- 2 Virginia Commonwealth
- 3 Penn State University
- 4 Kent State University
- 5 University of Wisconsin
- 6 University of Kentucky
- 7 University of Illinois
- 8 Michigan State University
- 9 Louisiana State University
- 10 Southern Illinois University

tion, said Debra Harley, associate professor in the department of special education and rehabilitation counseling.

"It is helpful when applying for grants and demonstrating ability to conduct research," she said of that recognition. "We also see it as a long-term positive recruiting tool."

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

Campus crimes reported to UK police from Dec. 1 to Dec. 5

- Dec. 1: Ziploc bag of marijuana found on Rose Street at 7:51 a.m.
- Dec. 1: Theft of mail reported at Baldwin Hall at 9:48 a.m.
- Dec. 1: Suspicious circumstances reported when a Chinese-food delivery driver allegedly tried to hit a man with his car at 1:04 p.m.
- Dec. 1: Bike theft reported at Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house at 1:55 p.m.
- Dec. 2: Theft of a radio reported at Alumni Gym at 9:20 a.m.
- Dec. 2: Theft of money from a safe reported at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College Oswald Building at 1:54 p.m.
- Dec. 2: Alcohol intoxication reported at Odooba where a man was causing a disorder at 2:51 p.m.
- Dec. 3: Disorder in-progress reported at the Kentucky Clinic Pharmacy at 12:28 p.m.
- Dec. 3: Harassing communication reported at UK Chandler Medical Center at 11:50 p.m.
- Dec. 4: RA reported smelling smoke coming from a room in Kirwan Tower at 12:26 a.m.
- Dec. 4: Harassing phone calls and text messages reported at Blanding Tower at 4:31 a.m.
- Dec. 4: Missing person report filed after parents were unable to make contact with their son who lives in Haggin Hall at 8:34 p.m.
- Dec. 5: Vandalism reported on a black Ford Ranger in K-101 at 12:56 p.m.
- Dec. 5: Harassing communication reported at Keeneland Hall where a resident was receiving recurring hate crimes via the Internet at 1:39 p.m.
- Dec. 5: Animal complaint reported on the third level of Parking Structure 3 near the Kentucky Clinic where a black dog was reported yelping from a truck bed at 1:54 p.m.
- Dec. 5: Room keys and student ID reported stolen at Kirwan Tower at 2:59 p.m.
- Dec. 5: Criminal mischief reported to a light fixture and fire alarm at Blanding Tower at 10:07 p.m.

Report compiled from UK police crime log
by police reporter Megan Boehnke
E-mail mboehnke@kykernel.com

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Gymnastics beams into view Saturday

By Jennifer Jones
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Every competitive team wants to start the season strong. But that desire isn't what UK's gymnastics team says separates it from the rest of the Southeastern Conference, and the nation.

"I like to have fun, so I bring a lot of enthusiasm to the gym and I help people on their bad days," said returning senior Lucy Burgin from Birmingham, Ala. "I expect us to have a strong start and to build on that. We need to build our confidence so we can get to nationals as a team."

The squad kicks off its season with the annual Blue/White scrimmage Saturday at 6 p.m. at Memorial Coliseum.

Third-year head coach Mo Muhammad said the team will be better than last year as long everyone stays healthy.

"We started practicing in the fall and had a team retreat," Muhammad said. "We train everyday, we have meetings every Sunday to discuss our goals and three mornings a week, we do cardio."

The Cats have many familiar returning faces, but also new talent to deepen their bench. UK returns three seniors and adds six freshmen to the squad.

Senior Lucy Burgin has been doing gymnastics for 18 years. She went to Mountain Brook High School (Ala.) and won nationals her senior year. Burgin said she chose Lexington because UK had a new coaching staff coming in and she thought they would have a lot of success. After graduation, she wants to become a nurse.

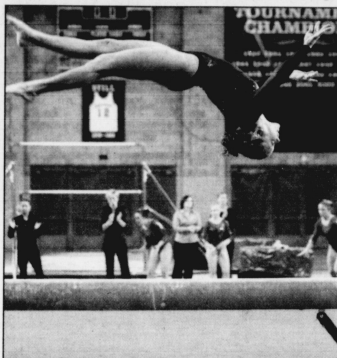
Burgin said the toughest competition of the season will be Alabama and Georgia, but added that she's prepared herself to be a tough competitor.

"The better I do, the better the team does," she said.

Rachael Riley, a junior from Dallas, Texas, said talent and depth isn't a question this year — it's cohesion.

"I think we will do really good. We have a strong team; we just need to put it together," Riley said.

Riley has been doing gymnastics since she was 8 years old. In high school, she won regionals her junior and se-



Senior Bethany Strauch and the UK gymnastics team kick off their 2006 season with the annual Blue/White scrimmage on Saturday at Memorial Coliseum.

nior year. Riley, a psychology major who plans to attend graduate school, chose UK because of the coaches' drive to win and the school atmosphere.

"I have a positive attitude and I keep everyone motivated," Riley said. She said UK's strongest competition is in the SEC. Six teams are ranked in the preseason Top 25, including UK at No. 23 and defending national champion Georgia at No. 1.

Riley said the team's main goal is to make it to nationals. Krystle Cook, a junior from Austin, Texas, doesn't make any bones about the team's ultimate goal.

"I want to make it to nationals with the team ... and make the program bigger and better," Cook said.

Cook has been doing gymnastics for 17 years and has been competing 10 of those years. A Region 3 All-Around Champ in 2000 in Texas, Cook said she chose UK because she was offered a scholarship and already knew the coaches.

After graduation, she hopes to get a job at a magazine or advertising company.

"I am consistent on the vault and I have a positive outlook on the team," Cook said. Cook said Alabama would be the Wildcats' toughest competition. The Cats lost to then-No. 4 Alabama in Feb-

ruary. Cook said she focuses on her ultimate goal every day.

"I want to have the highest vault and bar average of the year," she said.

Muhammad said these three upperclassmen would have a definite impact on the success of the team.

"They can play a major part on the events they compete in and they have experience," he said.

Muhammad also said that the newcomers would make a big impact on the team, especially on the bars and the vault. UK added freshmen Ashley Armour, Jordan Cullum, Heather Hite, Stephanie Kunz, Sherika Lynch and Natalie Rubinstein.

Muhammad said Hite is great on the floor and Rubinstein is great on the vault. He also said that Cook and Sarai Sevier, a junior from Victoria, Texas, are great on the bars. Kristen O'Shields, a sophomore from Cartersville, Ga., has shown a lot of improvement.

"We have more depth than last year. If we get everyone healthy, we will be able to dig deeper into the line-up," Muhammad said.

UK's season officially begins Jan. 6 at Michigan State.

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Wed - \$2 Wine Night
Thur - Special Pint Night

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Hoops

Continued from page 1

"It's exciting knowing that you've just rejected a shot and stopped them," said Elliott, who tied the school's single-game record for individual blocks with six. "It's an awesome feeling and the crowd really gets into it. It's definitely a boost for the team."

Elliott credited her team's man-to-man help defense for the record.

"If our guards get beat, we're there to help," she said. "You can rely on everybody. We're doing so much better with helping the guards to recover."

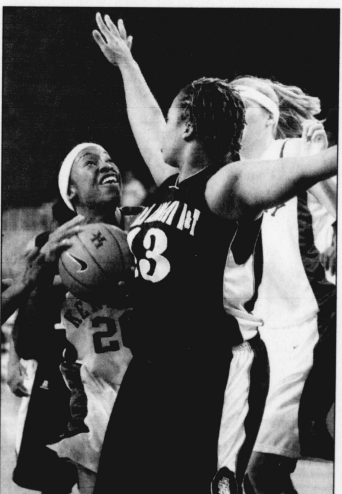
DeMoss said UK's post players have improved in their knowledge of when to go for blocks.

"The timing is so much better," she said. "Last year, (Elliott) would try to take it out of their hands and get called for a foul. Our post players have long arms. They're deceptive."

The record-setting evening overshadowed uninspired play by the Cats to open both halves.

UK shot poorly in the first half, making only 12 of 32 shots, with nearly half of those makes coming on lay-ups. Junior guard Jenny Pfeiffer and senior forward Jennifer Humphrey were the only Cats to score in the first 11 minutes of the game, combining for UK's first 15 points.

After taking a 15-point halftime lead, The Cats opened the second half with the same sluggish play that plagued them for much of the first. They missed multiple open lay-ups and looked lethargic on defense in allowing the Aggies to score the first eight points of the half and climb back into the game. Three minutes into the half, DeMoss removed four of her



Sophomore guard Chante' Bowman takes a shot against North Carolina A&T. Bowman netted six points in UK's 71-40 win last night.

five starters. "I thought it was just a lack of energy," DeMoss said. "We didn't match their aggressiveness and intensity level. We needed some energy."

Sparks from senior guard Nastassia Alcius, who led the team with 14 points, and freshmen Jenni Jackson and LaGwasha Gamble, provided points and energy off the bench.

"Coach DeMoss really emphasizes the bench, so we have to stay focused and ready," Jackson said. The Cats were held score-

less for the opening 5:24 of the second half before Sam Mahoney hit a 3-pointer to ignite a 13-0 run that effectively finished the Aggies. DeMoss said UK's unbeaten record after six games as a small victory in a larger battle for the program's success.

"Anytime you accomplish little milestones, you've got to feel good about it," DeMoss said. "It makes us work harder each game because we don't want that game to be our first loss," Mahoney said.

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In cooperation with Student Government Association, PTS will be providing free transportation for students to and from Fayette Mall on Sunday, December 4th and 11th. The CATS buses will pick up and drop off passengers on the north side of the mall at the entrance to Macy's.

Student Government Association

WINTER BREAK AIRPORT SHUTTLE

The shuttle will run from campus to Bluegrass Airport. The shuttle will operate Dec. 13-Dec. 16 with daily campus departure times of 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. Students should plan to leave campus at least two hours prior to takeoff. To schedule a pickup, email the following information with the subject "Winter Break Shuttle" to uiparking@tsuky.edu at least 48 hours in advance: Student's Name, Campus Address, Campus Phone or Cellular Number, Date, Time and Location of Pickup. Parking & Transportation Services will call and confirm a pickup time and convenient location.

Holiday Shopping Shuttle Pick-up Locations and Times

Location	12:00	12:45	1:30	2:15	3:00	3:45	4:30	5:15	6:00
Shuttles Center	12:00	12:45	1:30	2:15	3:00	3:45	4:30	5:15	6:00
Ross & Gilman	12:00	12:45	1:30	2:15	3:00	3:45	4:30	5:15	6:00
Hittop & Woodland	12:00	12:45	1:30	2:15	3:00	3:45	4:30	5:15	6:00
University & Huguenot	12:00	12:45	1:30	2:15	3:00	3:45	4:30	5:15	6:00
Greg Page Apartments	12:00	12:45	1:30	2:15	3:00	3:45	4:30	5:15	6:00
Shawmstown	12:00	12:45	1:30	2:15	3:00	3:45	4:30	5:15	6:00
Senior Citizens Center	12:00	12:45	1:30	2:15	3:00	3:45	4:30	5:15	6:00
Fayette Mall	12:00	12:45	1:30	2:15	3:00	3:45	4:30	5:15	6:00



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FRAME X FRAME | In theaters and on the shelves

IN THEATERS

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

In an answer to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, Disney brings us its adaptation of the "Chronicles of Narnia." The first film is based on the book "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" and follows the story of the four Pevensie kids as they travel through a magical wardrobe and end up in the world of Narnia. The White Witch Jadis has cast a spell over Narnia that put it into a permanent winter, and the Pevensies must join forces with the lion, Aslan, to defeat Jadis. Directed by Andrew Adamson, of "Shrek" fame. It should be great. At Lexington Green, Regal and Woodhill.



'Memoirs of a Geisha' takes an in-depth look at Japanese culture. The film, directed by Rob Marshall, stars Ziyi Zhang and Ken Watanabe from 'The Last Samurai' fame. It opens Friday.

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

In 1963, Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) and Ennis del Mar (Heath Ledger) met in Wyoming while trying to get jobs with rancher Joe Aguirre (Randy Quaid). The two men are assigned to be sheepherders on top of Brokeback Mountain, which is where they will fall in love. At the end of the summer, they go their separate ways and have their own lives, and four years later, they meet again and realize that time has only strengthened their bond. Theaters TBA.

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

In the years before World War II, Sayuri is kidnapped from her family and taken into a life as a servant in a Japanese geisha house. After much in-house fighting, she finally blossoms into a legendary geisha. She captivates the most powerful woman of her day, but she can't get over her one secret love. Ang Lee ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") directs. Theaters TBA.

SYRIANA

This film stars George Clooney as veteran CIA agent Bob Barnes and

Matt Damon as an oil broker in this effort produced by the director of "Traffic." A political thriller set during the Cold War-era, this film features a fight over the world's oil supply. It sounds like a surefire hit. At Regal and Woodhill.

ON DVD

THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

The TV show is better. Much better. Boss Hogg wants to run the Dukes (Johnny Knoxville and Seann William Scott) off their farm so he can turn Hazzard into a mining community. To remedy this, Jessica Simpson wears a bikini. I highly recommend this.

FANTASTIC FOUR

Astonauts Reed Richards, Ben Grimm, Sue Storm and Johnny Storm are hurtling through space to fly into a cosmic storm and solve the mystery of the human genome. They miscalculate their speed and are engulfed in the storm, and their DNA is changed. They then become Mr. Fantastic, The Thing, the Invisible Woman and the Human Torch. The foursome decide to unite and protect New York City from any dangers that may approach, including the nefarious Dr. Doom.

CINDERELLA MAN

Russell Crowe stars as Jim Braddock, a professional boxer who re-

tores after losing several matches. He works dead-end jobs to support his wife (Renee Zellweger) and kids while he still dreams of returning to the ring. After a last minute cancellation, Braddock returns to the ring to face the No. 2 boxer in the world — and wins. Braddock rolls with this momentum and returns to the ring full-time and continues to win, dubbed "Cinderella Man." This is a true story that inspired masses during the Great Depression. Paul Giamatti stars as Braddock's trainer. This appeared to be one of those great movies that no one bothered to see in theaters.

— Compiled by Staff Writer
Ryan Ebelhar
E-mail: rebelhar@kykernel.com

ONTAP | For the week of Dec. 7 - Dec. 13

TONIGHT

Adrea LaRoche w/ Julie Loyd and Gavin Davies
8 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

Blood on the Wall

9:30 p.m. Southgate House, Newport, Ky. Tickets cost \$7.

TOMORROW

Tall Boys w/ South 75
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

LoveLine with Dr. Drew

7 p.m. Memorial Hall. Tickets cost \$5 for students, \$10 for UK faculty and staff, and \$15 for the general public.

As I Lay Dying

7:30 p.m. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$14.

T.I., Young Jeezy and Lil' Wayne

7:30 p.m. Hara Arena, Dayton, Ohio. Tickets cost \$39 to \$49.

Living Colour

8:30 p.m. Music Mill, Indianapolis. Tickets cost \$15.

FRIDAY

Richard Vission w/ Slater Hogan and the Parlour Boys
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$10.

Spoon w/ OK Go

9 p.m. Newport Music Hall, Columbus, Ohio. Tickets cost \$5.

Neil Diamond

8 p.m. Conesco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis. Tickets cost \$44.50 to \$77.

Jason Mraz

8 p.m. War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville, Tenn. Tickets cost \$28.50.

SATURDAY

Big Maracas
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$5.

Anne Murray

8 p.m. Louisville Palace. Tickets cost \$45 to \$60.

Hawthorne Heights

7:30 p.m. Bogarts, Cincinnati. Tickets cost \$15.

SUNDAY

Martin Sexton
9:30 p.m. Music Mill, Indianapolis. Tickets cost \$18.

Lifehouse w/ Better Than

Ezra

7:30 p.m. The Vogue, Indianapolis. Tickets cost \$20.

Hammel on Trial

9 p.m. Southgate House, Newport, Ky. Tickets cost \$10.

MONDAY

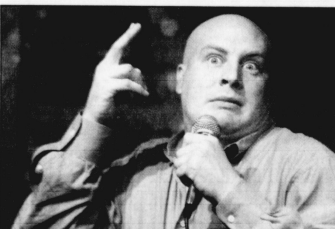
Ashlee Simpson
7 p.m. Palace Theater, Columbus, Ohio. Tickets cost \$36.50.

TUESDAY

City Mouse w/ RC Pro Am, Eighty Sixed, and Hotbox
9 p.m. The Dame. Tickets cost \$3.

— Compiled by On Tap Editor
Ryan Ebelhar
E-mail: rebelhar@kykernel.com

Caravan host prepares for final show



Campus comedian Ross Dunciff says goodbye to UK's Comedy Caravan since he will be graduating this month after a college career of cracking up the student body.

By Ross Dunciff
GUEST COLUMNIST

On Sept. 10, 2003, I opened my first Comedy Caravan show in the Cats Den for an audience of two. There may not have been a lot of laughter filling the room that night, but we all had a good time, and I couldn't help thinking that we had started something special. Two years and 74 shows later, I prepare to say good-bye to UK and to the Comedy Caravan series, which have both given so much to me.

Over the past five semesters, I have

had the privilege of hosting over 70 shows in the Cats Den. During that time, I have had the pleasure of meeting and talking to so many of you every Wednesday. Week after week, you have supported me while I developed my material and found my comedic voice. You have laughed with me when I was doing well, and you've cheered me on when I was bombing out. I really don't think I could have asked for a more polite or supportive audience than what I've found in the Cats Den, and I want you to know how much it means to me to be able to perform for comedy fans like you.

It is hard to thank everyone who helped me bring the Comedy Caravan to where it is now, but I must mention a few names: Winn Stephens, Tom Sobel, Lanya Matusek, Rhonda Strouse, Crystal Clayton, Phillip Latiff, John Herbst, and Kim Roley are all people who have taken a real interest in seeing that the Comedy Caravan is a success, and for that, I am truly grateful.

Tonight, I will enceed the semester's final Comedy Caravan to serve as a bitter-sweet farewell to the series. Come on out and catch some laughs before you prepare for finals. In the Cats Den, tonight at 8, you can, as the ad says, "laugh your stress away."

Finally, I want to thank the Student Center for giving me a headlining position tonight. I could not think of a better way to end my career as a student and as your regular Caravan host. I do not know how much involvement I will have in the Comedy Caravan after tonight, but it will undoubtedly be less than it has been up to this point.

It is going to be hard to walk away from something that has given me so much over the years, but most of all, it will be hard to leave you. I cannot thank you enough for making the Comedy Caravan such a huge success. It has truly been the highlight of my college career, and your enthusiasm is something I will never forget.

I know some of you will be sad that I am gone, but rest assured, there will always be Comedy Off Broadway, The Face-Book, and, of course, www.RossTheSauce.com. Again, I want to thank you all for making my time at UK special, and I hope to see all of you down the road.

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Graduate School Dissertations

<p>Name: Ross LaRoche Program: Psychology Dissertation Title: A Study of the Motivation and Self-Concept of the Adult (18-25) in the Workplace Major Professor: Dr. Susan M. Ryan Date: 12/15/05 Time: 10:00 AM Place: Room 303-304C</p>	<p>Name: Matt Lutz Program: Biology Dissertation Title: Molecular Biology of the Human Genome Major Professor: Dr. Patricia Cooper Date: 12/15/05 Time: 10:00 AM Place: 103-101</p>
<p>Name: David B. Ryan Program: Psychology Dissertation Title: The Influence of Social Media on the Self-Concept of the Adult (18-25) in the Workplace Major Professor: Dr. Susan M. Ryan Date: 12/15/05 Time: 10:00 AM Place: Room 303-304C</p>	<p>Name: David Ryan Program: Psychology Dissertation Title: The Influence of Social Media on the Self-Concept of the Adult (18-25) in the Workplace Major Professor: Dr. Susan M. Ryan Date: 12/15/05 Time: 10:00 AM Place: Room 303-304C</p>
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Critics want to cancel Mardi Gras

By Scott Gold
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW ORLEANS — A growing chorus of critics, concerned that throwing a massive party would be unseemly and imprudent when much of New Orleans remains in ruins, are pressuring authorities to do the unthinkable: call off Mardi Gras.

City officials and tourism leaders have pledged to use an abbreviated carnival this winter as a springboard to reintroduce New Orleans as a viable city.

Their October announcement that Mardi Gras would go on despite Hurricane Katrina met with an enormous cheer.

But many community activists — particularly leaders of poor, black neighborhoods that were destroyed by the floodwaters and have sat virtually untouched ever since — have turned against the idea.

"We're not against Mardi Gras. We're against their priorities," ChiQuita Simms, a displaced New Orleans resident who is orga-

nizing a protest, said of city leaders.

The protest is scheduled to be held in Atlanta where a large number of displaced New Orleans residents are living — when the Saints travel there for a "Monday Night Football" game against the Falcons next week.

Other community leaders have threatened to launch a petition drive and to erect billboards urging a boycott of the festival if it cannot be derailed.

Holding the carnival, Simms said, would give the nation the false impression that New Orleans has recovered from the storm. And the problem is not merely one of image, she said: "Who is going to take care of the people who come in? Who is going to clean your hotel room? Who is going to take your luggage at the airport? Who is going to clean up afterward?"

Mayor C. Ray Nagin leapt into the fray yesterday. While he said he still believes Mardi Gras should go on, he called upon the hotel and tourism industries to devote a portion of the

money earned to programs that would help rebuild the city.

Many business leaders insist that staging the famed carnival in the first place would be essential to the rebuilding effort. Before Katrina left the city depleted and broke, tourism was a \$5.5 billion-per-year industry — almost a fifth of that was attributed to Mardi Gras — and supported more than 75,000 jobs. Officials estimate the city has lost \$15.2 million every day in direct tourism income since the storm.

"It's critical that we put on a great Mardi Gras," said Dan King, general manager of the New Orleans Sheraton, a 1,110-room downtown hotel. "I know there are those who can have a celebration when so many people don't have homes. But if we really want to help rebuild the city, one of the best ways we can do that is to bring business back, which creates jobs and tax revenue and primes the pump."

Next year will be the 150th anniversary of the

first Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans. Current plans call for an abbreviated, eight-day celebration culminating with Fat Tuesday — the traditional climax, held the day before Ash Wednesday — on Feb. 28. There typically are almost two weeks of parades.

The divide over the carnival rests largely along racial lines. That is hardly unheard of in New Orleans, where blacks, who comprised the majority of the population before Katrina struck, have had a complex and standoffish relationship with the city's windfall event.

"In New Orleans, everything is about race at the end of the day," said Jerome Cooney, 25, a New Orleans native and rap artist. He is planning to take part in the Atlanta protest.

"Who will they be holding this party for? They shouldn't be preparing for Mardi Gras," he said. "They should be trying to get families back in neighborhoods. They should be trying to get New Orleans back on its feet."

Bush's 'holiday' cards deemed too politically correct

By Alan Cooperman
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — What's missing from the White House Christmas card? Christmas.

This month, as in every December since he took office, President Bush sent out cards with a generic end-of-the-year message, wishing 1.4 million of his close friends and supporters a happy "holiday season."

"Many people are thrilled to get a White House Christmas card, no matter what the greeting inside. But some conservative Christians are reacting as if Bush stuck coal in their stockings."

"This clearly demonstrates that the Bush administration has suffered a loss of will and that they have capitulated to the worst elements in our culture," said William A. Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.

Bush "claims to be a born-again, evangelical Christian. But he sure doesn't act like one," said Joseph Farah, editor of the conservative Web site WorldNetDaily.com.

"I threw out my White House card as soon as I got it," Farah said. Religious conservatives are miffed because they have been pressuring stores to advertise with generic ads rather than "holiday specials" and urging schools to let students out for Christmas vacation rather than for "winter break."

They celebrated when House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., insisted that the sparkling spectacle on the Capitol lawn should be called the Capitol Christmas Tree, not a holiday spruce.

Then along comes a generic season's greeting from the White House, paid for by the Republican National Committee. The cover art is also secular if not humanist. It shows the presidential pets — two dogs and a cat — frolicking on a snowy White House lawn.

"Certainly President and Mrs. Bush, because of their faith, celebrate Christmas," said Susan Whitson, Laura Bush's press secretary.

"Their cards in recent years have included best wishes for a holiday season, rather than Christmas wishes, because they are sent to people of all faiths."

That is the same rationale offered by major retailers for generic holiday catalogues, and it is accepted by groups such as the National Council of Churches.

"I think it's more important to put Christ back into our war planning than into our Christmas cards," said

the council's general secretary the Rev. Bob Edgar, a former Democratic congressman.

But the White Houses explanation does not satisfy groups that have grown in number in recent years that believe there is, in the words of the Heritage Foundation, a "war on Christmas" involving an "ever-stronger push toward a neutered holiday season so that non-Christians won't be even the slightest bit offended."

One of the generals on the pro-Christian side is Tim Wildmon, president of the American Family Association in Tupelo, Miss. "Sometimes, it's hard to tell whether this is sinister — it's the purging of Christ from Christmas — or whether it's just political correctness run amok," he said. "I think in the case of the White House, it's just political correctness."

Wildmon does not give retailers the same benefit of the doubt. This year, he has called for a consumer boycott of Target stores because the chain issued a holiday advertising circular that did not mention Christmas. Last year, he aimed a similar boycott at Macy's Inc., which averted a repeat this December by proclaiming "Merry Christmas" in its advertising and in-store displays.

"It bothers me that the White House card leaves off any reference to Jesus, while we've got Ramadan celebrations in the White House," Wildmon said. "What's going on there?"

At the Catholic League, Donohue had just announced a boycott of the Lands' End catalogue when he received his White House holiday card. True, he said, the Bushes included a verse from Psalm 28, but Psalms are in the Old Testament and do not mention Jesus' birth.

"They'd better address this, because they're no better than the retailers who have lost the will to say 'Merry Christmas,'" he said.

Donohue said that Wal-Mart, facing a threatened boycott, added a Christmas page to its Web site and hired a customer relations employee who wrote a letter linking Christmas to "Siberian shamanism."

He was not mollified by a letter from Lands' End saying it "adopted the 'holiday' terminology as a way to comply with one of the basic freedoms granted to all Americans: freedom of religion."

"Ninety-six percent of Americans celebrate Christmas," Donohue said. "Spare me the diversity lecture."

"Diversity has been a hallmark of White House greeting cards for some time, according to Mary Evans Seelye

of Tampa, Fla., author of "Season's Greetings From the White House."

The last presidential Christmas card that mentioned Christmas was in 1992. It was sent by George H.W. and Barbara Bush, parents of the current president.

Seelye said the first president to send out true Christmas cards, as opposed to signed photographs or handwritten letters, was Franklin D. Roosevelt. "Merry Christmas From the President and Mrs. Roosevelt," said his first annual card, in 1933.

Like many modern touches, the generic New Year's card was introduced to the White House by John and Jacqueline Kennedy. In 1962, they had Hallmark print 2,000 cards, of which 1,800 cards said "The President and Mrs. Kennedy Wish You a Blessed Christmas" and 200 said "With Best Wishes for a Happy New Year."

Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson continued that tradition for a couple of years, but it required keeping track of Christian and non-Christian recipients. Beginning in 1969, they wished everyone a "Joyous Christmas," and no president has attempted the two-card trick since.

Seelye dates the politicization of the White House Christmas card to Richard M. Nixon, who increased the number of recipients tenfold, to 40,000, in his first year.

The numbers since have snowballed, hitting 125,000 under Jimmy Carter, topping 400,000 under Bill Clinton and rising to more than a million under the current Bushes, with each president's political party paying the bill.

The wording, meanwhile, has often flip-flopped. Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter put "Merry Christmas" in their 1977 card and then switched to "Holiday Season" for the next three years. Ronald and Nancy Reagan, similarly, began with a "Joyous Christmas" in 1981 and in 1982 but doled out generic holiday wishes from 1983 to 1988.

The elder President Bush stayed in the "Merry Christmas" spirit all four years, and the Clintons opted for inclusive greetings for all of their eight years.

The current Bush has straddled the divide, offering generic greetings along with an Old Testament verse. To some religious conservatives, that makes all the difference.

"There's a verse from Scripture in it. I don't mind that at all, as long as we don't try to pretend we're not a nation under God," said the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

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BUDDY'S

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Issue will publish: Monday, December 12

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IN OUR OPINION

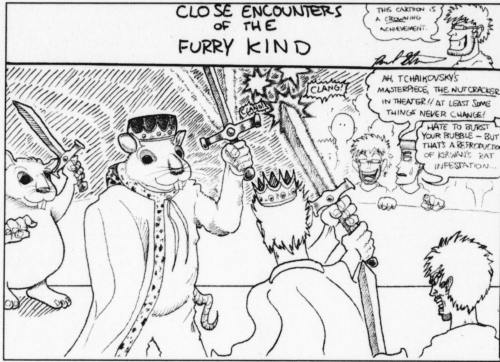
SG in line with online voting amendment

When the Student Government Senate unanimously voted to pass an amendment in favor of online voting procedures for future elections last week, the organization took a much-needed step. For years, SG elections have been plagued with scandals, including recounts, and unclearly defined polling venues and hours of operation. Online voting provides a clear, feasible solution to end the annual election fracas. Online voting will revitalize the current archaic polling method and allow a more representative number of students — not just Greeks — to easily and efficiently cast their votes. Instead of walking to a polling area that may or may not be in operation, students can simply turn on their computers, go online and cast their votes for SG candidates.

All this from the relative calm of our dorm rooms or apartments, without dodging the gauntlet of campaigners handing out fluorescent fliers mere feet from designated voting booths. There has been some debate over whether to use UK's information technology department or Votenet, a Washington, D.C.-based company, to oversee the online elections as well as the Emmys and the Country Music Awards. "My gut tells me that a partnership between an outside company and UK would be best," Constitutional Committee chairman Will Nash said after a presentation from UK's IT department two weeks ago. The online voting amendment, like all SG amendments, must be passed with a three-fourths majority at two meetings before it goes into effect. This amendment will be voted on again at the next Senate meeting in January, and if passed, will take effect in time for the freshman elections next fall at the latest. Still, if SG is serious about online vot-

But the amendment and specifics should be handled carefully to prevent problems after implementation.

ing, the organization must implement trials runs with either UK's IT department or Votenet — whichever it chooses — as soon as possible, to avoid any potential problems in upcoming elections. This is something that shouldn't be rushed, but carefully thought-out and orchestrated. If the amendment passes again in January, there shouldn't be a last-minute rush to put these parameters in place for the spring elections. Online voting should take effect in the fall to allow a built-in trial-and-error period for the online-voting system. We sincerely hope the amendment passes next month — it affords SG a rare opportunity to show the campus community they still care about making the organization more accessible to the student body.



BRAD STURGEON, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Celebrating U.S. Bill of Rights requires no formal occasion

One fate of adopting a base-10 number system is that important events throughout history only receive celebration during those critical anniversaries which end in "0" or "5." But some human achievements transcend this arbitrary custom, as is the case with the greatest event that ever transpired on a Dec. 15, (which is just eight days away) 214 years ago: the ratification of the Bill of Rights — the first 10 and most important amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The Bill of Rights culminated with the consent of the Virginia state legislature — the 11th and final state needed to secure ratification.



Andrew Martin
KERNEL COLUMNIST

And thus, the model of republican government developed by the Founding Fathers was complete, and largely consistent (the preservation of the ugly institution of slavery notwithstanding) with the ideals of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" so fervently advocated by Thomas Jefferson a few years earlier in the Declaration of Independence. One can scarcely imagine a better day for the forces of liberty, either in the United States or anywhere else on Earth.

However, it's a different day in the United States and in most of the world. The U.S. Constitution — the oldest and most celebrated compact with freedom — has lost much of its original luster.

It wasn't intended to be mere parchment under glass. The Constitution was supposed to entrust certain responsibilities and powers to the government, but only with the proviso that those powers be limited and checked, and individual rights preserved.

Unfortunately, two centuries is plenty of time for forces hostile to liberty to slowly creep back into prominence. Competing values, however well-intended, have started to corrode and corrupt the Bill of Rights.

Under the guises of national security, social justice, equality positivist government or the intolerant inclinations of the majority, government officials have — whether through legislation, jurisprudence or executive order — piously attempted to water down the citizenry's most basic freedoms.

Nearly every year, some member of Congress, under the pretense of patriotism, presents a constitutional amendment that would outlaw burning the American flag — an amendment in diametric opposition to the First Amendment, which prevents making prohibitions against speech, however unpopular.

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court essentially eviscerated the "public use" clause from the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution when it ruled that private entities can lawfully condemn private property, even in cases where there is no clear "public use."

And the American presidency becomes ever more adversarial to liberty as its role continually expands in both scope and power.

Americans, who should be judiciously driving and directing the actions of their government, are asleep at the wheel. Earlier generations of Americans would be appalled to find their posterity uninformed, apathetic and even enemies of basic liberties.

It's widely known that newspaper circulation and television ratings for news programs are in steep decline.

A report entitled "Rediscovering Democracy 2004" on the Civic Literacy Initiative of Kentucky Web site noted a drop in civic literacy at the national level in recent decades; that is, general knowledge about how American governmental institutions run and work.

A short glance at U.S. Census data is all anyone needs to observe a downward trend in voter turnout during national elections.

But perhaps the most alarming discovery is contained within a recent study by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which shows high school children have a lower degree of respect for First Amendment freedoms than their educators.

This suggests, perhaps, a failure to instill or at least present the value of constitutional freedoms — a suggestion backed up by the attrition of civics curriculum in public and private schools.

But it's not too late. Citizens can still take action to reverse this trend toward the encroachment of their most cherished freedoms. It involves a more honest attempt to teach children about the values of self-government and a pluralistic society, be it an improved civics education or experience working with local government.

More opportunities must exist for adults to express their beliefs, be it grassroots organizations or political parties with renewed vigor. Most of all, it's convincing people in highly partisan times that individuals with different beliefs can and must get along in order to secure the blessings of liberty.

Our freedoms are only worth celebrating if they are embodied and embraced by the people. And we can all start by celebrating the enactment of the Bill of Rights.

Andrew Martin is a journalism and political science senior. E-mail: amartin@kykernel.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maybe Lexington isn't the problem

In response to Delaurah Kamrani's Dec. 5 letter, "Yes, Lexington is worthless":

Upon reading and rereading Kamrani's brief letter, summing in strong words her distaste for the city of Lexington in Andy Rooney-esque form, the point is clear: She hates Lexington. But is Lexington really the problem?

I might venture to agree with her comment about traffic, and Lexington drivers and their, shall we call it, rudely aggressive style of driving. That is, however, the only relevant point she makes.

First, the rising tuition can be credited to the state and national government, not to UK. Spending cuts in education have spiked tuition prices nationwide, so I advise Kamrani that if she is considering graduate school at any alternative college with any sort of national reputation, she should not anticipate much better prices. Furthermore, the price of tuition has little to nothing to do with the lofty goal of becoming a top-20 establishment.

Secondly, it's all too easy to attack her reasoning for coming to UK in the first place, so we shall overlook that for the time being. As we can overlook her obvious anti-social tendencies, which allows her to be content alone in her room, away from the overbearing Lexingtonians whom she so despises. However, we cannot, in good conscience, overlook her onslaught against the pride and joy at this university: Wildcat basketball.

I believe having an athletic program of such high repute is a blessing, not a curse, and it is offensive that someone would attack the student body for supporting one of the best parts of their university.

Lastly, with regard to Kamrani's commentary on the nature of politics on Kentucky's campus, I say, practice what you preach! You accuse the student body of smothering you with their Republicanism, yet you mount a verbal assault on them for being ignorant of politics, and following in their parents' footsteps. I consider myself moderate to liberal on most topics, and I say that no true liberal would try to oppress public opinion in such a manner:

RICARDO FELDES
foreign language and international economics junior

Make the best of living situation

In response to Delaurah Kamrani's Dec. 5 letter: I have lived in Lexington my whole life. I am not saying that I love Lexington and will be here forever — I may move on after graduating, but at least I am making the best of what I have while I'm here.

Lexington is an average town with its perks and downfalls. It's not the only place lacking culture or good drivers. Alcoholics are at every university. People who still "follow mommy and daddy's politics" will never go away.

UK is nationally labeled a basketball school. But that doesn't mean every student is "obsessed." UK also has an exceptional medical school, an excellent music department and is striving to be more diverse. UK has its ups and downs, but that is a whole other subject.

Lexington is not completely devoid of culture. Getting involved with LexArts, the Lexington Opera House, The Lexington Children's Museum, Actor's Guild of Lexington, The Kentucky Council of Churches, The Humanitarium or many other socially-based organizations will encourage cultural enlightenment.

If none of these options are culturally good enough for you, there are other things to do in Lexington that further build a

well-rounded person. Volunteer at a retirement home or hospital, join a gym or adopt a pet from the Humane Society. And of course, Lexington has Comedy Off Broadway, movies, ice skating, bowling and restaurants, which, if done in moderation, are enough to keep from getting bored.

If you still consider Lexington to be culturally lacking, then do something about it yourself. Start a club, raise awareness for the cultural need in Lexington, but please do so with some respect. This is home to many people, and many are proud to live in the Bluegrass. Some build their lives here and stay here, so it is not a "waste." Saying that Lexington is a "waste" is ignorant and not making the best of a given situation.

MICHELLE TURNER
marketing junior

Dookies were rash to rush floor

Sunday night, the Duke men's basketball team took a step backward. Ranked No. 1 in the nation, it hosted Virginia Tech in an early Atlantic Coast Conference match-up.

The Blue Devils were heavily favored to win the game but found themselves trailing by one point with 1.6 seconds remaining.

Then it happened: In a play that brought back nightmares of a 1992 turnaround jumper by "you-know-who" against Kentucky, Sean Dockery of Duke received the ball at mid-court, took a dribble, and heaved up a prayer. And, of course, it went in.

But the shot wasn't the most shocking event of the game. To my roommates' and my surprise, we witnessed something much more shocking. Duke fans were rushing the court after their victory over unranked Virginia Tech. That's right: Duke was rushing the court as if they had just won a game that they did not expect to win. This is not suitable behavior for a top-tier program — especially for the nation's top-ranked team.

During my six years of college, I have witnessed a lot storming the court, both on TV and in person. Sure, there are acceptable times to rush the court, but only for mediocre teams who don't expect to win.

Last year when Kentucky lost at South Carolina in basketball, the Gamecocks stormed the floor with good reason. They knocked off a powerhouse. An article was written in their school newspaper that supports my thesis:

"You have not arrived as a team if you win a big game and your fans storm the playing surface," Todd Green wrote in The Gamecock last March. "You have arrived when you lose and it is the other side that knows you are better ... and that they better take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate because it might not come again in their lifetime."

When in doubt, don't rush the court. And if you are in Rupp Arena for a UK men's basketball game, never rush the court, we always expect to win, so let's act like it.

BRIAN RANEY
economics graduate student

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

Continued from page 1

off the bench to match his career high in points with 14, and set a new career high with seven boards.

The Cats exorcised some demons that had been plaguing them all season long last night. From the free throw line, UK knocked down 12 of 14. They also dominated on the boards, out-rebounding the Panthers 45-23. Before last night, the Cats were out-rebounding their opponents by about three boards per game.

"If we can continue to build on our rebounding and free throw shooting, we're going to be a pretty good team," Smith said.

Smith said the game plan going into last night was to force the issue with his big men, whom he had been critical of the past several games.

"We made a conscious effort to make sure the ball was going to go inside after throwing it in there just 12 times against North Carolina," he said. "That's never going to happen again."

UK again shot the ball well, knocking down 52 percent of their shots while holding the Panthers to just 35 percent from the field.

"We showed up tonight and played a solid game all around," said Smith.

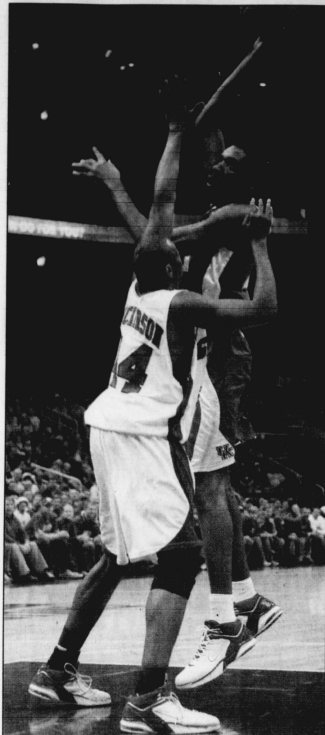
E-mail
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Left: UK senior guard Ravi Moss dribbles by Georgia State junior forward Lance Perique during the first half of UK's 73-46 win.

Right: UK's 7'3" center, Shagari Alleyne, shoots over Georgia State sophomore center Deven Dickerson during the first half of UK's win in Atlanta last night. Alleyne finished with 16 points and six boards.

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KEITH SMILEY |
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