

KENTUCKY KERNEL

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SG president's anti-Muslim e-mail draws fire

Phelps forwarded message blasting Barack Obama, Muslims to colleagues

By Juliann Vachon
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Student leaders are voicing concern about an e-mail Student Government President Nick Phelps forwarded to an SG listserv last month that describes presidential hopeful Barack Obama as a Muslim and derides the religion.

The e-mail states, "The Muslims have said they plan on destroying the U.S. from the inside out, what better way to start than at the highest level — through the President of the United States, one of their own!" The words Muslim, atheist, radical and Christian were highlighted throughout the e-mail.

Phelps admitted to sending the message — which had his forwarded his Student Body President and Board of Trustees member titles attached at the end — through the SG executive committee listserv. The

listserv goes to at least seven members of SG. Phelps said his intention was to spark discussion about the presidential candidates.

"It's not my opinion, and it's not even fact," Phelps said yesterday. "My SGA executive committee knows that."

"The purpose was to talk about how ridiculous it was and how it's not right."

But student diversity leader Patrick Nally said regardless of Phelps' intention, the e-mail was inappropriate and sparked a number of upset students to contact him.

"It's not necessarily his opinion, but why aren't student leaders thinking about what is wrong with this e-mail?" said Nally, a student who works in the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.

Students gathered Monday at a closed meeting organized by an unnamed administrator to discuss the e-

mail and how they would move forward, said College Democrats President Robert Kahne. Students agreed to keep the administrator and everything that happened at the meeting confidential. Kahne said that while he respects the decision to keep the meeting confidential, public dialogue would be more beneficial.

Kahne said he was extremely disappointed with Phelps and his actions. The incident is one of several events on campus recently that have exhibited intolerance of diversity, he said.

"I think the best thing for Nick to do would be to resign. I think this merits that type of reaction," Kahne said. "This type of ignorance and slander merits his removal. It is an abuse of his office."

Yahya Ahmed, president of UK's Muslim Student Association, also said he was disheartened to see that Phelps, a student-elected leader, helped distribute the false message,

which Ahmed said had a malicious tone and was full of disrespect for Obama, Muslims and atheists.

The myth that Obama has deep Muslim ties has spread through conservative talk shows and mass e-mails since he came to the political spotlight but has been discredited widely by journalists, academics and others.

"The e-mail was blatantly false," Ahmed said. "It doesn't promote discussion of any nature unless it is meant as a joke or for people who might actually buy into its message."

College campuses are designed to promote open-mindedness, Ahmed said, but UK campus culture does not always foster a sense of acceptance.

Many UK students come from predominantly white backgrounds and were not exposed to many Muslims or even African Americans growing up, Ahmed said.

"Students have certain reserva-



Phelps

Excerpts from the e-mail

Below are passages from the chain e-mail Nick Phelps forwarded to his SG executive cabinet. He said he did not write or alter contents of the e-mail.

"If you do not ever forward anything else, please forward this to all your contacts. This is very scary to think of what lies ahead of us here in our own United States... better heed this and pray about it and share it."

"Obama takes great care to conceal the fact that he is a Muslim. He is quick to point out that, 'He was once a Muslim, but that he also attended Catholic school.' Obama's political handlers are attempting to make it appear that he is not a radical."

"Barack Hussein Obama has joined the United Church of Christ in an attempt to downplay his Muslim background. ALSO, keep in mind that when he was sworn into office he DID NOT use the Holy Bible, but instead the Koran. Barack Hussein Obama will NOT recite the Pledge of Allegiance nor will he show any reverence for our flag. While others place their hands over their hearts, Obama turns his back to the flag and slouches. Let us all remain alert concerning Obama's expected presidential candidacy. The Muslims have said they plan on destroying the US from the inside out, what better way to start than at the highest level - through the President of the United States, one of their own!!!!"

For the full e-mail text, go to www.kykernel.com

See Phelps on page 3

SUPER TUESDAY



As the polls close, students gather for armchair analysis

By Kenny Colston
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While thousands of people were casting votes in border-to-border primaries, a small group of UK students was debating election issues in Patterson Office Tower last night.

Although 24 states held primaries and caucuses yesterday, the students were restricted to discussion because Kentucky's primary is not until May 20. Watching as almost half the states cast votes for party nominations had history professor Phil Harling excited to vote himself.

"We're still in the analytic mode," Harling said. "We're not participating, but I was itching to vote."

Other students said they would like to head to the polls earlier in Kentucky in future years.

"I would like to see our primary moved up to Super Tuesday," said Keri Borden, a biology and topical studies sophomore.

In past years, Kentucky voters have felt that they would receive more attention from presidential candidates if they could vote in the primaries when the race was still undecided, said Donald Gross, chair of UK's political science department, on Monday. But when the state tried having a Super Tuesday primary in 1988, the results didn't live up to expectations.

"The last time Kentucky moved up to Super Tuesday for exactly that reason, it didn't work out that way," Gross said, adding that Super Tuesday tends to mean minimal personal attention from each candidate because so many states are contested at the same time.

One student watching results come in last night said she changed her voter registration to participate in yesterday's primaries through an absentee ballot. Chelsea Darnell, a Kentucky native, registered to vote in Georgia after her parents moved there a few months ago. Darnell, a political science, economics and international relations sophomore, said she wanted her voice heard earlier.

Even though most of the students could not vote, they were closely tracking the races online, something they attributed to convenience and personal choice.

"I like to use the Internet," said Joe Tarantino, a chemical engineering sophomore. "I can research on my own time and don't have to rely on the media."

Other students embraced the social networking site Facebook, which has started featuring political coverage through a partnership with ABC News.

"It has the ability to get people my age involved," Borden said. "It's a good combo, in the fact that everyone has and uses Facebook."

Even though many Kentuckians were on the sidelines during yesterday's process, the Super Tuesday results were not going to influence some students' preferences.

"I'll stay with my candidate unless they drop out," said Jessilyn Ubellacker, a biology and international relations sophomore. "But these votes won't influence me."



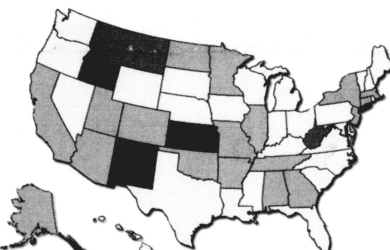
ED MATTHEWS | STAFF

Sophomores Joe Tarantino, right, and Brad Sturdivant, center, talk with history professor Phil Harling, left, while watching election results last night at Patterson Office Tower.

From coast to coast, 24 states held presidential primaries yesterday as part of the largest Super Tuesday in U.S. history.

For all the talk of which candidates took which states, the real race is based on delegates, who will ultimately choose the presidential field at nominating conventions later this year.

And when it comes to delegates, yesterday was the mother lode: Democrats were competing for 1,681 delegates, and on the Republican side, 1,061 were up for grabs.



■ States with both parties holding a primary or caucus on Super Tuesday
■ States with a Democratic caucus ■ States with a Republican caucus

| | Hillary Clinton New York senator | Barack Obama Illinois senator | Mike Huckabee former Ark. governor | John McCain Arizona senator | Mitt Romney former Mass. governor |
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|---------------|-------------------|----|----|-------------------|----|
| Alabama | 42 | 56 | 41 | 37 | 18 |
| Alaska | 27 | 72 | | Not available | |
| Arizona | 51 | 40 | 9 | 46 | 33 |
| Arkansas | 72 | 24 | 62 | 20 | 13 |
| California | 55 | 33 | 11 | 44 | 24 |
| Colorado | 35 | 64 | 13 | 19 | 59 |
| Connecticut | 47 | 50 | 7 | 52 | 33 |
| Delaware | 42 | 53 | 15 | 45 | 33 |
| Georgia | 33 | 64 | 34 | 32 | 30 |
| Idaho | 17 | 81 | | Primary on May 27 | |
| Illinois | 33 | 65 | 16 | 48 | 28 |
| Kansas | 27 | 73 | | Caucus on Feb. 9 | |
| Massachusetts | 56 | 41 | 4 | 41 | 51 |
| Minnesota | 32 | 67 | 20 | 22 | 42 |
| Missouri | 49 | 48 | 32 | 33 | 29 |
| Montana | Primary on June 3 | | 15 | 22 | 38 |
| New Jersey | 54 | 44 | 8 | 56 | 28 |
| New Mexico | 42 | 38 | | Primary on June 3 | |
| New York | 57 | 40 | 11 | 51 | 28 |
| North Dakota | 37 | 61 | 20 | 23 | 36 |
| Oklahoma | 55 | 31 | 33 | 37 | 25 |
| Tennessee | 56 | 38 | 34 | 32 | 24 |
| Utah | 40 | 56 | 2 | 7 | 88 |
| West Virginia | Primary on May 10 | | 52 | 1 | 47 |

Results as of 11:30 p.m. Numbers in bold represent races called for that candidate.

Boyd, Jewell halls closing next year

By Jill Lester
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UK plans to close two of its 22 residence halls next year because of low student occupancy, saving University Housing about \$300,000 in the process.

Boyd and Jewell halls on North Campus will not reopen next year, said Ben Crutcher, associate vice president of auxiliary services.

"The main reason Jewell came to the top of the stack is the 60 percent occupancy, and that it has no air conditioning," Crutcher said in a meeting with Jewell Hall residents last night.

Crutcher said for the housing program to not lose money, residence halls need to be at least 90 percent occupied. This year, an average of 61 percent of Jewell Hall's 108 beds were used. An average of 82 percent of Boyd Hall's 137 beds were used. The money saved by the closings will pay resident advisers, maintenance staff and other departmental costs, Crutcher said.

What will be done with Boyd and Jewell halls is not known yet, Crutcher said. If enough people apply to university housing, some will be placed in Jewell Hall until new spaces open up. A high number of housing applications might mean Jewell or Boyd halls would have to reopen for the 2009-10 school year.

"At some point and time, the building will be vacant, and we'll work with the university on how it should be used," Crutcher said.

Fewer maintenance workers and RAs will be needed for North Campus, but no current staff members will lose their jobs as a result, Crutcher said. Employees on North Campus may be moved to somewhere different on campus.

Jewell and Boyd hall residents replying to housing will receive high priority for their second option. They can also change their dormitory preferences by going to the University Housing office in 125 Funkhouser Building.

Boyd is one of the two residence halls that house most Honors Program students. Honors students meeting the March 1 priority deadline will be placed in the other, air-conditioned Honors Program dorm, Patterson Hall, or in nearby Holmes Hall.

The Honors Program uses a classroom in Boyd about one hour a week and is looking for a replacement room, Crutcher said.

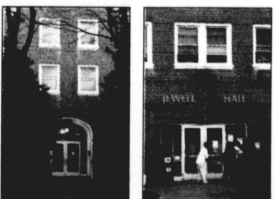
Boyd also has the only computer lab on North Campus. UK's Information Technology department has already been informed of the change, and the lab may be moved to one of the other halls on campus, Crutcher said.

Since many students use the computer lab in Boyd Hall to print, University Housing is looking at setting up a network printer elsewhere that would allow wireless users to print, Crutcher said.

Kevin Wieman, a Jewell Hall resident who heard Crutcher speak last night, said his grandmother was one of the first people to move into Jewell Hall after it was built in 1939.

Living in Jewell this year has fostered a sense of community, and Wieman said he would miss it.

"We have dinner every Sunday," said Wieman, a mechanical engineering junior. "For the most part, it's a real family thing."



KRISTIN SHERBARD | STAFF

North Campus residence halls Boyd Hall, left, and Jewell Hall will not reopen next year, UK announced yesterday.

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black

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

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Today is an 8 — You run with an intelligent crowd. They keep you on your toes. Relax, and take the leadership position you've rightfully earned.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Today is a 6 — Take on more responsibility and you will increase your earnings. Will it be enough to make up for the extra stress? Don't answer immediately. Stress on family counts, too.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) Today is a 9 — Something you've always wanted to see or do is now within reach. Make up your mind, make up your plans, and make your reservations.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) Today is a 5 — Plan for your future and you will find out what's important now and what's not. Paying off old debts could take top priority. They're very expensive.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) Today is an 8 — The best partner for you is a friendly yet analytical type. This person can help you devise a good strategy. Find this person and get him or her to do that.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Today is a 6 — It's just one thing after another, all day long and into the night. Some of the instructions are not clear, so you'll have to concentrate. Don't give up.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Today is a 10 — Your luck is excellent now. So, what do you want to begin? New projects launched under these conditions will be interesting and fun.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Today is a 5 — Replenish your reserves. Build up your energy by stashing away a few more provisions for your

own future. Pack away stuff you're not using, too.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Today is an 8 — There's a sense of urgency about the task you've undertaken. This is good. It helps you concentrate your attention. You'll also retain what you learn.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Today is a 6 — You can afford to make your life easier. There's a tool you've been thinking about that could increase your efficiency. Time to go shopping.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Today is a 9 — Somebody you care about thinks you're looking very good. This person may seem to be critical, but that's just a test. You're passing with flying colors.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Today is a 5 — You have everything you need, if you can just find it. Sort and file and throw things away. You can do it. Have courage. You'll be richly rewarded.

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BRITNEY FINALLY GETS HELP

Three weeks after being hospitalized, Spears seeks professional aid for her "mental issues." But will she stick with the program?

By Joey Bartolomeo

After months of increasingly erratic behavior — most recently, dating a paparazzo, speaking with a British accent and blowing off key custody hearings — Britney Spears appears to be coming to her senses.

On The View on Jan. 28, Barbara Walters shared details of a phone conversation she had with Spears' close friend and manager, Sam Lutfi.

"He said that Britney is suffering from what he describes as mental issues," said Walters. "He said that she has been to a psychiatrist and that she, I assume, is starting some kind of treatment."

This jibes with a report on X17online.com that, on January 25, the singer spent an hour at the home of Santa Monica, Calif.-based psychiatrist Deborah Nadel.

(The photo agency maintains a close relationship with the star.)

But according to a source, the treatment didn't get off to a great start. "She didn't really want to be there," says the source. "She had an attitude about it and was not taking it seriously."

Analyze This

So what made Spears, 26, bother to go at all? Perhaps a desire to regain custody of her sons, Sean, 2, and Jayden, 16 months, who have been living with their father, Kevin Federline, 29.

(Spears — who hasn't seen her boys in three weeks — showed up for a Jan. 23 emergency custody hearing but never entered the courtroom; the judge did not restore her visitation privileges, but she is allowed phone contact.)

Says the insider, "She really does want to get her kids back, but it's hard to get through to her because she thinks she knows best."

Any treatment will take time, but the impulsive starlet has already made one breakthrough: "She stayed for the entire session and didn't storm out," says the source of the meeting with Nadel. "Everyone is hoping this woman will be able to break her down and get through to her."

What's the Prognosis?

Even with therapy on her schedule, Spears, who is still dating photographer Adnan Ghalib, hasn't slowed down. She hit Millennium Dance Complex three times in one week, where she worked on new moves. ("I've never seen her more focused," owner Robert Baker tells Us.)

On January 27, she revisited the Hustler Hollywood store in

West Hollywood, where, back in November, she had stripped down to her underwear and shoplifted a wig. She even took time to weigh in — albeit strangely — on Heath Ledger's death. "He's still here. Oh, yes. No one — ever really dies," she told photographers, speaking with a British accent. "No one."

Indeed, the road to recovery could be a rocky one. As Us Weekly went to press, on the night of January 28, Spears' dad, Jamie, and her estranged - Louisiana-based mother, Lynne, arrived at their daughter's Beverly Hills home, with photographers and reporters clustered outside the gates. Joining them was Lutfi and Nadel. The mission? To persuade the singer to enter an in-patient psychiatric facility. But, according to witnesses, an unwilling Spears sneaked away and summoned Ghalib to pick her up.

Adnan: Kiss and Tell

Boyfriend or betrayer? That's what viewers of Entertainment Tonight and The Insider were left wondering after the shows began airing exclusive interviews with Spears' photographer beau, Adnan Ghalib, on January 22. He admitted their monthlong romance is sexual and said that Spears is "not crazy." Though Ghalib did share with the shows voice mails from Spears, a close source denies a British tab report that he is also trying to sell - videos: "There are no videos. They don't exist."

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PHELPS

Continued from page 1

tions and negative stereotypes, and a message like this only reinforces those negative notions they already have," he said.

Pat Terrell, vice president for Student Affairs at UK, said in a statement yesterday that the e-mail was "deeply disappointing."

"It perpetuated offensive stereotypes regarding race, religion and ethnicity that have no place in civil discourse or on a university campus where values of tolerance and mutual respect should be cherished," Terrell said in the statement. "While not a violation of student code, and therefore not a disciplinary matter, this incident is one that we take seriously."

Phelps said as soon as he discovered that the e-mail offended a student, he regretted his decision to forward it.

In Phelps' weekly column in the Kernel yesterday, he apologized to anyone who felt offended by an e-mail sent to his executive staff, but did not specify the e-mail's contents. "I sent apology notes and in my column asked students to come meet with me."

Phelps said, "I'm sure they'd understand if they talked to me."

Phelps' invitation to come meet with him is not enough, said Nally, who was at the meeting Monday. Nally said Phelps should set up a forum and give those who might be too intimidated to walk into the SG president's office alone a chance to share their opinions.

Students are planning other events to voice their concerns. Kahne said the College Democrats met yesterday to discuss the incident and will deliver an open letter to Phelps today.

At least two events were announced on Facebook yesterday, both of which call for a sit-in at tonight's full Senate meeting at 8 in the Student Center. The events are titled "Stand Up to Hate and Bigotry" and "UK sit-in against Nick Phelps' Anti-Muslim remarks."

One SG executive committee member said the situation has been blown out of proportion. Tyler Fleck, director of constituency services and member of the executive committee, said SG members often use the listserv for forwards from the members' parents and friends.

SG Vice President Brittany Langdon said the listserv is often used for political

discussion, such as Kentucky's November gubernatorial election and presidential primaries and caucuses this year.

"We're in SG, we're naturally very political people, and we have people who are on very opposite sides of the political spectrum," Langdon said. "I'm a huge Barack Obama supporter, and I've seen that e-mail a million times, and I know that's not how Nick feels."

Langdon said members of the executive committee use the listserv to stay in constant contact with each other. Phelps used his personal e-mail account to send the message specifically to other SG members through the listserv, Langdon said, and many people have misconstrued the situation, thinking Phelps sent the message to the entire student body.

"People have concerns, and those concerns are very real," she said. "Everyone makes mistakes, and he really does regret it."

"He has said he's sorry, and sometimes you get to a point where all you can do is admit your flaws."

STAFF WRITER KATIE SALTZ
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT



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Cats hope to overpower depleted Tigers

By Travis Waldron
twaldron@kykernel.com

Jeff Lebo needs a doctor. Not your regular M.D. with a corner office in downtown Auburn, Ala.

With only seven scholarship players and just one starter taller than 6-foot-5, Auburn's head coach needs someone more powerful than a doctor. Lebo needs a miracle worker.

For a team that was already picked to finish near the bottom of the Southeastern Conference, the Tigers have experienced a hoard of bad news this season. But facing a UK squad that has had its fair share of injury issues as well, Lebo is expecting no let-up from the Cats.

"(UK's) short-handed is usually different than Auburn's short-handed," Lebo said. "They've had guys out, but we've got to have guys out for very long periods of time."

All of that appears to be good news for freshman forward Patrick Patterson and the UK offense.

Patterson, who leads UK with 17.1 points and 7.9 rebounds per game, will face an Auburn team that ranks dead last in the SEC in field goal defense, blocked shots and total rebounds.

During his weekly teleconference Monday afternoon, Lebo acknowledged that he had no idea how the Tigers would stop Patterson.

"(Patterson is) pretty scary," Lebo said. "He's constantly working, he's constantly putting you in predicaments, whether you're going to play in front of him, whether you're going to play behind him. That's an

UK vs. Auburn

When: 8 p.m.
Where: Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum in Auburn, Ala.
TV: RAYCOM (WKYT-27 in Lexington)

ON THE WEB: Men's basketball injury report and more UK sports coverage
www.kykernel.com

area of concern for us."

But, stopping Patterson won't be Auburn's only problem.

A lack of size has turned Auburn into a perimeter-oriented team on offense, and Lebo said Auburn's scoring is now predicated on slashing to the basket and getting to the foul line or getting hot and firing 3-pointers. But Auburn doesn't do either all that well.

Only South Carolina has attempted fewer than Auburn's 351 free throws, and at 64.1 percent, the Tigers are 10th in the SEC in free throw percentage. And though Auburn is second in the conference in field goal percentage, the Tigers are eighth in 3-point shooting at just 35 percent.

The Cats have found a perimeter offense themselves, making 14-of-25 3-point attempts in the past two games, including 8-of-11 from senior guard Joe Crawford. That appears to be more bad news for the Tigers, who rank 11th in the SEC in 3-point defense.

With Auburn's lack of size inside and its struggles to defend the ball outside, head

coach Billy Gillispie said the Cats need to exploit both weaknesses to fully take advantage of either.

"I think those go together," Gillispie said. "The reason we've started making more shots is... we're getting the ball inside. I think that's why we've been shooting the ball better is because we're playing inside-out just a little bit better."

Auburn has suffered from an assortment of problems, from academic issues to injuries and medical conditions that have ravaged its roster and left Lebo reeling. Four of the five front-line players Lebo expected to have before this season aren't playing, a problem that's changed the Tigers' game plan almost entirely.

"Our whole front line is gone," Lebo said. "Defensively and around the rim area, we can't alter a lot of things there."

Auburn's roster troubles started in the fall, when recruit Tyrell Lensch, a forward, failed to qualify academically and never enrolled at Auburn. Then, Josh Dollard and Bouabacar Sylla were forced to take redshirts because of injuries, and forward Korvoteny Barber, the team's leading scorer, hasn't played since Dec. 29 due to a broken hand.

With both teams facing injury problems, Gillispie said his team must come out and match Auburn's intensity. But Auburn has lost 22 of the past 23 meetings with UK, and despite UK's shortcomings this season, Lebo noted that the name on the front of the jersey still carries weight.

"They're still Kentucky," Lebo said. "They're still finding ways to win."

Kentucky Kernel your source of daily news

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■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

Phelps can't duck public scrutiny over hateful e-mail

Now is not the time for Student Government President Nick Phelps to go on the defensive.

He made a major mistake in using the SG executive committee listserv to pass along an inflammatory anti-Muslim e-mail, and he needs to answer to students who are rightly upset.

Offering to meet with concerned students individually, as Phelps did in a Kernel column yesterday, is not enough — especially when the column gave scant details about the controversy.

By proposing one-on-one meetings instead of a public forum, Phelps seems to be assuming the number of students offended by the e-mail is small enough that he can reassure each of them individually.

But the e-mail is a public issue, and Phelps should address it publicly. The most appropriate venue would be a well-advertised open forum where students could air their concerns and discuss how to move forward.

And it is presumptuous of Phelps to ask offended students to reach out to him for his reassurances. As the student body's elected representative, Phelps should take the first step toward heal-

ing the wounds he helped open.

Phelps said yesterday that his forwarding of the e-mail — which says, "The Muslims have said they plan on destroying the U.S. from the inside out" — was not an endorsement of its content, but merely an attempt to spark

discussion about the presidential candidates among SG executive officers.

Even so, his actions reflect a startling lack of professionalism, to say the least. As an elected official, Phelps must know that his actions, including those outside his formal duties as SG president, are subject

Phelps made a major mistake in using a SG listserv to pass along an anti-Muslim e-mail, and he needs to answer to students who are rightly upset.

to public scrutiny.

Sending an inflammatory e-mail without any kind of disclaimer or explanation is grossly irresponsible. As any e-mail user knows, no message is completely private, and people's intentions are all too easy to misinterpret.

It should have occurred to Phelps that passing along a hateful e-mail without context could have consequences far outside his immediate social circle. If it didn't, then the lessons of this week have been a long time in coming.

Now, for the campus' sake — and his own — he needs to acknowledge the harm he's done and begin repairing it.

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SG president's e-mail smear was a disgrace

Recently at the University of Kentucky, Nick Phelps, our Student Government president, circulated a false and racist e-mail about Sen. Barack Obama on one of the student listservs. We, as students of UK, must hold Nick responsible for his intolerant and discriminatory behavior.

For those of you who have not read the e-mail, I will give a brief description. It falsely claims that Barack Obama is a Muslim and suggests that he is part of an Islamic plot to take over the United States. The e-mail makes other false claims about Obama, saying he went to an Islamic Wahhabi school (a school that teaches radical beliefs), he will not say the pledge of allegiance, he was sworn in on the Koran, and so on. Factcheck.org dispels these rumors.

I am most bothered by the fact that the writer of the e-mail links being a Muslim with being a terrorist. Myths and misconceptions such as this one only perpetuate prejudice and discrimination. After 9/11, many American citizens who were Muslim were attacked because of their ethnicity and/or religion. These hate crimes occurred because many Americans are uneducated about different groups of people outside the dominant white, heterosexual Christian norm. The truth is that Muslims are like all other individuals of faith. They believe in peace, love and justice. It is wrong for anyone to portray them otherwise.

Therefore, we, both the students and the administration, must hold this student leader accountable for the slanderous e-mail. Nick Phelps' actions symbolically represent the racist and discriminatory actions that occur on this campus and throughout the country everyday, and they will continue if students do not demand institutional change.

Short term, we need to educate the rest of the student body about the discrimination that Muslims and other minorities face at UK, across the state and across the nation.

I encourage everyone to learn about Islam and Muslims. In fact, the Muslim Student Association on campus is hosting an event to educate students about Islam on Thursday. Please take advantage of this opportunity. We all have freedom of religion, and no American should be stigmatized, misrepresented or targeted due to religion. As a community, let us show that we respect all people of faith and people of various backgrounds.

Taneshia Huse
Sociology and gender and women's studies junior

Submissions

Send a guest column or letter to the editor to Opinions Editor Linsan Li. Be sure to include your full name, class, major and phone number (for confirmation).

E-mail opinions@kykernel.com

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Weekly Poll Question

Should higher education be an exception to statewide budget cuts?

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DON WRIGHT, The Palm Beach Post

Statewide and nationwide, Republicans offer best choices

Gov. Steve Beshear, as I predicted, is trying to cut the University of Kentucky's budget by 12 percent in the upcoming budget cycle. Unsurprisingly, in the same speech, our dear governor mentioned that issue so dear to his heart and to his campaign's checkbook: casinos in Kentucky. Democratic leaders in the house are chomping at the bit to raise our taxes. Rep. David Watkins, D-Henderson, has filed a bill to raise the cigarette tax by seventy cents per pack. Rep. Harry Moberly, D-Richmond, mentioned a "revenue proposal," which would include "traditional tax hikes." Even Speaker of the House Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, is indicating his support for higher taxes. Kentucky does not need



THOMAS ROBERTS
Contributing columnist

higher taxes. Instead, legislators and this governor need to get their priorities in line and cut spending on wasteful projects. Whatever tax increase the Democratic-led House desires will hopefully be rejected by the Republican-led Senate.

Speaking of the liberal love of taxes, Hillary Clinton suggested just the other day that, should she become president and have her healthcare plan pass, people who do not buy her mandated healthcare could have their wages garnished. I mean, perfectly healthy 25-year-olds in low-paying jobs should be financially penalized if they choose not to buy health insurance, right? Only in the mind of a liberal. Even Barack Obama's plan has not gone that far, and he is more liberal than she is!

While Obama and Clinton continue to fight for the Democratic nomination, the Republicans are getting closer and closer to having a nominee. Depending on what happened yesterday on Super Tuesday (keep in mind my deadline for this column was before the results came in), it is looking like John McCain will probably be the Republican nominee. While this will leave several conservative Republicans scratching their heads because his record is not overly conservative, McCain will pose the most problems for Democrats in the

fall. He has proven that he can work across party lines and draw support from Independents. Mitt Romney, while still fighting, is probably out if he did not show well yesterday.

What will be more interesting to me than this presidential race, is how Kentucky Democrats go about selecting who will lose to Sen. Mitch McConnell in the fall. Bruce Lunsford threw his hat in the ring. After Democratic voters rejected Bruce Lunsford as their nominee for governor in 2003 and in 2007, I really wonder why he is running now.

In his press conference in the Capitol Rotunda, Lunsford indicated that Gov. Beshear has asked him to run. Considering the reaction that Gov. Beshear and Lt. Gov. Daniel Mongiardino received when, in my opinion, they strong-armed party officials in the 30th Senate District to handpick the nominee, I have to wonder how they have not learned to stay out of their own primaries. Their meddling in the 30th Senate District made that race much closer than it ever should have been.

In fact, they may have alienated enough voters in Harlan and Leslie counties to keep their candidate from winning. So much for the rhetoric about working with everyone, huh?

Thomas Roberts is the president of UK College Republicans. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

How should a former president be covered on the campaign trail?

For news media, the emergence of Bill Clinton as a key public player in the presidential campaign of his wife,



EDWARD WASSERMAN
Syndicated columnist

Sen. Hillary Clinton, raises unusual coverage issues. The most obvious, and the easiest to fix, is the problem of even-handedness. The former president is a celebrity of the first order. No other U.S. politician, active or retired, commands the crowds and media that he routinely draws. So any news cycle in which he's stumping is likely to feature not just a story about Sen. Clinton, but one about him too, hence double the coverage her opponents get.

Not that media attention is otherwise precisely balanced, but the ex-president brings an unusually heavy finger to the scale. So the media need to compensate. If the campaign were a debate the solution would be simple: Bill's time comes out of Hillary's. That's the same principle the media need to apply in getting toward even-handedness in coverage.

But the more perplexing problem, and the one that the media have only slowly begun to address, is in figuring out just what Bill Clinton's public status now is, and what kind of scrutiny he — and his own record — ought to be subjected to.

This country treats former presidents very well indeed. They get material ease, lifetime staff and guards at public expense, and a license to get as

rich as they like speaking, writing, golfing, sitting on boards, accessorizing the elites of the world.

The media lay off ex-presidents unless they seek attention, and in this they get a break that's unusual for the famous — they get celebrity without accountability, they're allowed to choose between prominence and privacy.

This comely sinure comes at a price: They must keep clear of the rough and tumble of politics, unless they're pushing broadly humanitarian causes that engender little controversy. (Jimmy Carter manages to duck the no-controversy rule, but I think he's viewed less as an ex-president now and more as a global trouble-shooter and Nobelist.)

But Bill Clinton? His sharp-elbowed advocacy on his wife's behalf during the South Carolina primary has thrust him into the Democratic presidential campaign not as a benign senior statesman offering vanilla platitudes, but as a steeply partisan politico — and has reminded the public that in a Hillary Clinton administration, he's almost sure to be a figure of unique and perhaps formative influence.

Fair enough. So how should he now be covered? If he is, in effect, campaigning for a position of major national importance, if he'll be more a Dick Cheney than a Laura Bush, shouldn't he get the inspection the press would routinely give to, say, a vice presidential candidate — a few of whom matter anywhere near as much as he will?

Sure, Bill Clinton's presidency was covered intensively. But it ended in January 2001, and he has been skating beneath the media gaze ever

since. What causes has he championed, and what obligations has he incurred?

Since South Carolina these questions have started to be raised. In a New York Times column, Frank Rich recounted a disquieting story of Clinton's stonewalling press inquiries into fundraising for the presidential library. A front-page Times article last week detailed his service abroad on behalf of a Canadian mining baron who later donated tens of millions of dollars to the library.

As Bill Clinton's role in his wife's campaign grows and his stature within a Clinton II administration rises, the armistice under which his post-White House doings are treated as private business is destined to crumble.

There's logic to that, and if it means a better-informed electorate and a more accountable leadership, such scrutiny will be commendable. But it may also mean a media establishment eager for the tales and innuendos that will be spread about Bill Clinton — who was almost impeached for reprehensible personal behavior — when the same well-oiled smear machine that slamed John Kerry in 2004 starts in on the seven years he has spent jettisoning around the world unchaperoned.

Many people in the news media were embarrassed by their complicity in dignifying the Swift Boat calumnies of '04. The return of Bill Clinton may yet offer another opportunity for the media to serve as a tool of political hitmen. That would make 2008 one more episode of journalistic shame.

Edward Wasserman is a columnist for the Miami Herald. E-mail opinions@kykernel.com.

Sophomore second baseman Natalie Smith dives for a ball during practice on Monday at the Nutter Field House. Smith led the Cats in triples, stolen bases and at-bats last year.

BRITNEY MCINTOSH STAFF



Catching up to the rest of the pack

Young Cats hoping for first winning season in difficult SEC since 2000

By Bobby Reagan
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Before the first pitch has even been thrown, the UK softball team has already developed an "us against the world" mentality for the 2008 season.

After finishing last year with a 20-31 record, including a 4-26 mark in the Southeastern Conference, the Cats want nothing more than to forget about their struggles in 2007. But losing a majority of its offense — UK lost its two all-time home-run leaders in departed seniors Brooke Marnitz and Katie Campbell — and saying goodbye to three other seniors indicates UK could have an even tougher year.

Several preseason polls echoed that sentiment in their rankings. The majority of the polls picked the Cats to finish last or next to last in the SEC. The Cats don't like the low marks they are receiving before even recording an out, but they're embracing the role of the underdog as they head into their season opener this weekend in the Chattanooga Shootout in Chattanooga, Tenn.

"You could say it's a rebuild-

ing year, but I think we're going to surprise a lot of people," said sophomore second baseman Natalie Smith. "It's always fun surprising people because I love having the underdog role."

If the Cats are going to turn their recent fortunes around, they will likely rely on Smith and sophomore utility player Molly Johnson, two of the SEC's budding stars. While Marnitz powered the Cats' offense with home runs last year, Smith and Johnson provided UK with solid freshman campaigns. Both were named to the All-SEC Freshman team.

Smith led the Cats in triples (4), stolen bases (8) and at-bats (162) while Johnson paced UK with a .340 batting average and a team-high 11 doubles. Personal accolades aside, Smith would gladly trade her accomplishments for team success.

"I would love to make All-Conference, but it's not that important to me," Smith said. "I just want to help the other girls and lead us to a conference tournament appearance, because that's the big goal at the end of the year."

The 2008 season will be a new era for UK as Rachel Lawson be-

comes the program's third head coach. Lawson replaces Eileen Schmidt, who resigned in June to become the head coach at Virginia.

Lawson spent the last three seasons at Western Kentucky, where she posted a 92-84 record. The first-year UK coach is looking forward to the challenge of playing in arguably the toughest conference in the nation.

"You always strive to be the best," Lawson said. "In order to be the best, you have to play the best. You can never really have an off-day in the SEC, and if you've won top to bottom in the conference, you've really earned it."

Lawson has instituted a new practice schedule that includes more one-on-one workouts with the players, which Johnson and Smith said should benefit the team.

"I think you get a lot more personalized help and focus on the task at hand during the one-on-one workouts," Johnson said. "You get more time to work on specific drills and fine-tune your skills."

The loss of four starters will present a difficult task for Lawson, but she is hoping the leadership of Smith and Johnson can fill that void.

"I think it's going to be important that they don't lose focus on what they are trying to accomplish at their position,"

Lawson said. "They are going to be forced to be leaders, but they are both very good in the classroom, so I think it's something that will come natural for them."

Lawson's squad should get a boost from an experienced pitching staff. The Cats return all four starting pitchers from last season, led by sophomore Jennifer Young, who finished with a 3.97 ERA last year in 95.1 innings pitched.

The Cats also bring in a highly touted recruiting class. Freshman Meagan Aull, last season's Miss Kentucky Softball, and freshman Samantha DeMartine headline the class.

"Our freshmen are exciting. They're competitive and have good talent," Lawson said. "Each of the freshmen has their own niche and aren't scared or timid. They provide us with a good spark that I think we needed."

The Cats began their quest for the program's first winning season since 2000 on Saturday when they battle Wichita State and the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga in the Chattanooga Shootout.

"It's a great first tournament for us and the freshmen," Johnson said. "It will allow them to get the jitters out early. It'll also give us a good chance to see what we're made of as a team because they're good teams."

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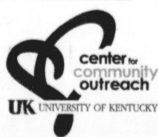
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