

THE Kentucky Kernel

Thursday, November 17, 2005

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Black students, officials talk diversity

By Dariush Shafa
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Administrators, faculty and students probed diversity issues at UK during a Black Student Union meeting last night.

Topics in the discussion ranged from admissions to discrimination as faculty and university officials answered students' questions during the two-hour session, with about 10 faculty or administrators present and about 70 members of the Black Student Union.

"I think we haven't, at least formally, listened to what students have to say about our diversity issues," said Phil Kraemer, associate provost for undergraduate education, before the discussion. "We want to hear very open, honest expressions and work whatever way we can."

University Registrar Don Witt said he was glad administrators were invited to come to the meeting.

"I think it's really time for us to find ideas from students ... and finally do something about diversity on campus," he said.

While discussing admissions, Black Student Union President Rosalind Welch said UK needs to take action regarding the admissions policy and diversity. This year's freshman class marks a 40 percent drop in black freshman enrollment from last year. In each of the past two years, UK had seen double-digit percent gains in that area.

"If we want the cream-of-the-crop black students, we need to recruit like we recruit cream-of-the-

crop black athletes," she said.

Witt agreed. "Instead of being too cautious, we need to be aggressive and push this," Witt said. "This is something we can solve."

The definition of diversity became a central aspect of the discussion.

"Diversity is an issue of appreciating people's differences," said agricultural economics and public service and leadership senior LaFarth Meriwether. "I think the university makes it an issue of color."

All parties agreed discussion on the issue needs to continue.

"It's uncomfortable for people to read these things. I think we're pushing in the direction of awareness," Witt said. "This dialogue should never be over. It must never go away."

Welch said black students must be involved as UK modifies its approach to diversity.

"If you're (the university) making changes that affect black stu-

See Diversity on page 5

Safety warnings plague vans



Several of UK's 15-passenger vans sit in a storage parking lot behind Nutter Field House on South Campus. UK owns 17 staff vans, and uses them as its primary source of transportation. But nine UK benchmarks have stopped using the vans.

CHRIS HETZEL | STAFF

More benchmarks shy away from 15-passenger vans; UK isn't

By Katheran Wasson
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Nine of UK's 19 benchmark universities have discontinued use of 15-seat passenger vans in their rental motor pools because of repeatedly issued safety warnings and other safety concerns. Of the 10 benchmarks that do use the vans, eight of them require training for rental.

UK, on the other hand, uses 15-passenger vans as a primary form of transportation and doesn't require training for its general motor pool.

Results from studies conducted by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration have prompted some schools to shift to alternative vehicles like shuttle buses and vans with dual rear wheels.

"We've issued more advisories on 15-passenger vans than any other issue I've ever seen," said Rae Tyson, chief spokesman for the NHTSA.

While UK does not plan to switch out its fleet of 15-passenger vans anytime soon, mandatory training for all drivers — not just those from UK's College of Agriculture — could be implemented in the near future, said Bill Peterson, director of management operations for UK's College of Agriculture.

"The main thing we're trying to do is raise the awareness that extra caution is necessary when driving these vehicles," Peterson said.

"It's important people understand the risks associated with using these vans," Tyson said. "If you're going to drive them like a passenger car, you're going to get into trouble."

In May, the NHTSA released its third warning in four years advising consumers of an increased rollover risk associated with 15-passenger vans. The NHTSA found the vans are comparable in safety to other vehicles, but factors such as seat belt use, improper tire inflation and the number of passengers can change that.

Last year, the NHTSA found that 22 percent of 15-passenger vans roll over in single-vehicle crashes — accidents that involve the van and no other automobiles.

See Vans on page 5

UK murder case could get retrial

By Megan Boehle
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Attorneys for Shane Ragland will go before the Kentucky Supreme Court today asking for a new trial for the second time since Ragland was convicted in 2002 of killing UK football player Trent DiGiuro.

The Kentucky Supreme Court ruled a year ago tomorrow, in a 4-3 decision, to overturn the 2002 conviction. Attorney General Greg Stumbo filed a petition last December, and the court elected to reconsider its decision to grant Ragland a new trial.

DiGiuro died from a gunshot to the head July 17, 1994, while sitting on the front porch of his Woodland Avenue home during his birthday party. The case went unsolved for five years after DiGiuro's death until Ragland's former girlfriend came forward, telling police Ragland confessed to her in 1999 that he had shot DiGiuro.

Ragland, who has been serving a 30-year sentence at the Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange, Ky., originally had his conviction overturned on grounds that one of the attorneys for the DiGiuro family intentionally commented on Ragland's choice not to testify against himself.

As part of his closing arguments, First As-

See Trial on page 2

BY THE NUMBERS:

- 3** NHTSA safety warnings in the last four years about the increased rollover risk with 15-passenger vans
- 17** number of 15-passenger vans UK owns
- 250,000** total average miles those vans travel per year
- 9** number of UK's 19 benchmarks that have discontinued use of 15-passenger vans in their motor pools
- 22** percent of 15-passenger vans that roll over when involved in single-vehicle crashes

UK's BENCHMARKS AND 15-PASSENGER VANS

- | | |
|---|--|
| Currently use 15-passenger vans: | No longer use 15-passenger vans: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ University of Arizona ■ North Carolina State University ■ The Ohio State University ■ Texas A&M University ■ Penn State University ■ University of Florida ■ University of Illinois ■ University of Iowa ■ University of Minnesota ■ University of Wisconsin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Michigan State University ■ Purdue University ■ UCLA ■ University of Maryland ■ University of North Carolina ■ University of Virginia ■ University of Washington ■ University of Georgia* ■ University of Michigan |

* hires professional drivers

PROTESTING A LACK OF DIVERSITY



Sophomore Altaneya Powell protests outside Patterson Office Tower yesterday. "If we can recruit talented basketball players, why can't we aggressively recruit academic talent?" asked event organizer Letetia Richardson.

BOBBY BAKER | STAFF

SG committee proposes raising election spending

By Sean Rose
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

SG's Constitutional Revision Committee voted to increase spending limits for election candidates at a meeting yesterday afternoon.

The second Constitutional Revision Committee meeting took its first steps to restructuring Student Government's elections. The proposal will go before the full Senate at next week's meeting.

Committee Chair and political science senior Will Nash, who lost the election to Becky Ellingsworth on a court ruling, said the elec-

Inside:

■ SG committee enters meal plan debate PAGE 2

tions were the first area of focus for the committee because they were in the greatest need of revision.

"We feel that that is the most urgent section that needs reform," Nash said.

He added that candidates for spring elections start campaigning early and will need to be aware of any major changes in the elec-

See Spending on page 2

Noted author fires away at president

By Chris DeLotell
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

The current conflict in Iraq has distinct similarities with the failed military action in Vietnam in the 1960s, Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Halberstam said during a speech last night in Memorial Hall.

Halberstam, who covered the Vietnam War as a reporter with the New York Times, said he feels the current administration has ignored Vietnam's historical implications and is repeating the same mistakes that were made more than three decades ago.

"I'd be very surprised if the president

See Halberstam on page 5

SG resolution wants meal plan changes

Full Senate to vote on proposal next week

By Sean Rose
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Student Government entered the arena of debate over the new meal plan last night at a Senate committee meeting with a resolution criticizing the meal plan. History sophomore and SG Senator Andy Bates introduced a resolution citing problems with the new meal plan. The resolution claims that the quality of food is lacking, that the price of a single meal is "outrageous" and that "the variety of meals provided is non-existent."

A resolution is an official opinion issued by SG released to bodies connected to the issue and represents the interests of students on various issues. Unlike

acts, resolutions take no actual action and unlike an amendment, resolutions only require simple majority vote of the SG Senate to pass.

"One major issue on our campus is that we have a new meal plan," Bates said, adding that students have voiced complaints to him about the plan. "I think it's important that Student Government focuses on the student body and not ourselves and I think this an opportunity for that."

"I think the new meal plan is one of the largest issues facing students."

The resolution passed and will appear before the full Senate next week for approval.

The resolution wants Chick-Fil-A to be accessible to the dining plan, as well as fiscal priority given to the renovations of Blazer, Commons and the Student

Center. The resolution also wants UK Dining Services to expand on the meal selection and for UK to negotiate contracts with locally owned national franchises.

Bates is hoping the resolution will prompt renovation for not only seating areas in cafeterias, but also for the kitchens and cooking equipment, which he said are outdated and cause a drop in food quality.

SG President Becky Ellingsworth said resolutions are "a good way to gather individual voices into one." She agreed that the meal plan was an issue among students.

"I know a lot of students have been complaining about the meal plan this year," Ellingsworth said. "I think it's always good to address the concerns of the student body."

An amendment to the consti-

tution also passed last night, declaring that freshman elections in the fall of 2006 would use online voting. It goes to the full Senate next Wednesday where it will be discussed and voted on.

The committee passed another resolution on diversity as well, stating that the 40 percent decrease in black enrollment at UK was great cause for concern and that a university attempting to be a top-20 school like UK should have diversity on the top of its priorities.

"We just want more diversity on campus for the benefit of all of us," said senior mechanical engineer and legislative liaison Joshua Odol.

A third resolution was passed encouraging further exploration of online voting.

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Spending

Continued from page 1

tions process.

"They need to know well ahead of time what those changes will be," Nash said.

The one recommendation the committee made last night was over campaign expenditures.

Both Ellingsworth and Nash exceeded their campaign spending amounts for the election, and Nash was disqualified because of using a tax form not available to all candidates. Ellingsworth was eventually ruled SG president by a court ruling from Fayette Circuit Court Judge Gary Payne five months after the election.

The constitution committee recommended that maximum expenditures for presidential candidates be raised from \$600 to \$800, plus the inflation rate for each following year. Senatorial candidates maximum expenditures was

raised from \$150 to \$200 and senatorial candidates' maximum funds when running together rose from \$200 to \$250.

The committee decided to raise the amount of money because the limit had been set in 1985, according to finance and economic senior and Operations and Evaluations Committee Chair Ben Carter. Nash said the raise in the amount accounted for inflation rates.

"With inflation rates we were trying to bring it up to a current level," Nash said.

SG President Becky Ellingsworth said she wanted to make sure the raise in expenditure limits didn't exclude students who couldn't afford to spend much money.

"We need to make sure that there's equal opportunity for all students to hold positions in Student Government without having to spend X amount of dollars," Ellingsworth said.

The committee recommended that the regulations over campaign expenditures be moved out

of the constitution into statutes that are more flexible according to Carter.

"Flexibility is one of the biggest things," Carter said. "It's just more convenient."

The committee discussed the possibility of online voting for nearly an hour before deciding to gather more information over the next month and then decide whether it was an obtainable goal for the upcoming spring elections. They plan to make that decision later on in the year.

"I think we need to take our time with this and not rush into anything," Ellingsworth said. "If that means waiting to implement this next fall, so be it."

Other members of the committee saw the opportunity for SG to make an impact in students' lives with online voting.

"That's the whole point of student government, it's making a difference," said political science senior and general manager of WRFL-FM, John Edwards, cutting off Ellingsworth at one point in the heated discussion.

These suggestions will be forwarded to the SG Senate for approval. Amendments to the constitution must receive a three-fourths majority vote twice to be approved.

The SG Senate formed the committee three weeks ago in an effort to clarify the constitution and keep a confusing and troubled SG election from reoccurring, said Nick Phelps, Senate president and economics and finance sophomore, when the committee formed.

The original agenda for the meeting listed seven sections of the constitution to be examined. The committee looked at two and made a recommendation on one of them. Still Nash said he was pleased with the committee's progress.

"I thought it was very productive," Nash said. "Everyone voiced their opinion and we have solid recommendations to make."

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Trial

Continued from page 1

sistant Commonwealth Attorney Mike Malone told the jury. "The only person who knows where that shot was fired from exactly is the person sitting in that chair over there, and he hasn't seen fit to tell us."

Ragland's attorneys will continue to argue that point at 11 a.m. today in the Kentucky Supreme Court in Frankfort.

"That is a significant constitutional violation and continues to be significant in this case," said J. Guthrie True, one of Ragland's attorneys.

Lawyers with the attorney general's offices argued last December that Malone had clarified his statement during the trial.

Though the Attorney General's office declined to comment on the case, DiGiuro's father, Mike, said Malone's comments were insignificant in influencing the jury's original guilty verdict.

Mike DiGiuro said Malone's 29-word utterance was immediately corrected afterward and that the jury wasn't influenced by it.

"(They) didn't convict him on anything said in the closing arguments, they convicted him on the evidence," DiGiuro said. "Shane Ragland killed my son and he is in jail, and that is where he needs to stay."

Another factor affecting the decision is the appointment of two new justices to the court. John Roach, appointed by Gov. Ernie Fletcher in June, replaced James Keller, who voted to affirm Ragland's conviction last November. In addition, Will Scott replaced Janet Stumbo, who was well-known for defending a criminal's rights while serving on the high court.

Ragland's defense will focus some of its arguments on the Comparative Bullet Lead Analysis the prosecution used to link bullets recovered from the scene to ammunition investigators discovered in the two Frankfort homes of Ragland's divorced parents.

The FBI announced in September that it would discontinue its use of the test, which uses lead content to match bullets, because of the tests inconclusiveness.

"The recent studies done by the science community have confirmed what we were arguing prior to the trial, that the evidence should not be admitted," True said.

Mike DiGiuro agreed this argument was not new to the case.

"It was brought out in the trial as miscellaneous little bits of information and left up to the jury how much weight to put on it," he said. "And that was very specifically brought up in the trial."


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CORRECTION

In a Nov. 9 article "High court nominee has UK tie," assistant UK law professor Lori Ringhand told The Kernel she had been misquoted. After conducting an investigation, The Kernel has concluded that the article misquotes Ringhand. Therefore, The Kernel is retracting all references to that source from the article online.

In that same article, the city where UK law professor David Moore clerked for Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito is incorrect. Moore clerked in Newark, N.J.

To report an error, please call The Kernel newsroom at 257-1915 or e-mail asichko@kykernel.com.



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KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Woodward could be boon to Libby

By Carol D. Leonnig and Jim Vandehiel
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The revelation that The Washington Post's Bob Woodward may have been the first reporter to learn about CIA operative Valerie Plame could provide a boost to the only person indicted in the leak case: I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby.

Legal experts said Woodward provided two pieces of new information that cast at least a shadow of doubt on the public case against Libby. Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, who has been indicted on perjury and obstruction of justice charges.

Woodward testified Monday that contrary to Special Counsel Patrick J. Fitzgerald's public statements, a senior government official — not Libby — was the first Bush administration official to tell a reporter about Plame and her role at the CIA. Woodward also said that Libby never mentioned Plame in conversations they had on June 23 and June 27, 2003, about the Iraq war, a time when the indictment alleges Libby was eagerly passing information about Plame to reporters and colleagues.

While neither statement appears to factually change Fitzgerald's contention that Libby lied and impeded the leak investigation, the Libby

legal team plans to use Woodward's testimony to try to show the Libby was not obsessed with unmasking Plame and to raise questions about the prosecutor's full understanding of events. Until now, few outside of Libby's legal team have challenged the facts and chronology of Fitzgerald's case.

"I think it's a considerable boost to the defendant's case," said John Moustakas, a former federal prosecutor who has no role in the case.

"It casts doubt about whether Fitzgerald knew everything as he charged someone with very serious offenses."

Other legal experts agreed. Moustakas said Woodward also has considerable credibility because he has been granted "unprecedented access" to the inner workings of the Bush White House.

"When Woodward says this information was disclosed to me in a nonchalant and casual way — not as if it was classified — it helps corroborate Libby's account about himself and about the administration," Moustakas said.

According to the statement Woodward released Tuesday, he did not appear to provide any testimony that goes specifically to the question of whether Libby is guilty of two counts of per-

jury, two counts of providing false statements and obstructing justice.

The indictment outlines what many legal experts describe as a very strong case against Libby, because it shows the former Cheney aide learned about Plame from at least four government sources, including the vice president — and not a reporter, as he testified before the grand jury.

Randall Eliason, former head of the public corruption unit for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington D.C., said he doubted the Woodward account would have much effect on Libby's case and dismissed such theories as "defense spin."

"Libby was not charged with being the first to talk to a reporter, and that is not part of the indictment," he said.

"Whether or not some other officials were talking to Woodward doesn't really tell us anything about the central issue in Libby's case. What was his state of mind and intent when he was talking to the FBI and testifying in the grand jury?"

Eliason added: "What this does suggest, though, is that the investigation is still very active. Hard to see how that is good news for (White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl) Rove or for anyone else in the prosecutor's cross hairs."

VHS: Obsolete but environmentally friendly

By Casey Dolan
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ever since it was introduced in 1976, VHS tape has steadily and inexorably beaten a path from personal video collections to the landfill. And the pace has quickened noticeably lately, with DVDs increasingly pushing VHS aside.

Consumer discards, though, are just the tip of the tape-waste iceberg. Film studios, postproduction facilities, video duplication companies and other industry enterprises are dumping tapes faster than Disney can shed Miramax movies.

The question is: What happens to that fast-growing mass of obsolete plastic?

Quick answer: It's recycled — in a way. The tapes, which are not biodegradable, arrive 5,000 to 10,000 a day at Tropical Media in Burbank, Calif. Tropical — and companies like it — hire independent recycling companies to break down the cassettes in Mexico by stripping the plastic and screws off the tapes. Then the tapes are shipped back to be erased by degaussing — a process of demagnetizing that strips away the recorded information — protecting privacy and intellectual property rights and, some believe, enhancing tape quality. The newly blank tapes are then resold.

A good-quality VHS tape can be reused about 20 times if stored correctly, experts say. Lesser-quality ones begin to show glitches after only a few recordings.

Given that it takes one-sixth of a gallon of petroleum to produce a single half-inch VHS tape, the more tapes can be reused, the less

they strain the world's energy sources. (Producing the broadcast-standard tapes used by television and cable operators might use as much as a gallon of petroleum.)

For the near term, at least, there's much business to be done in recycling.

"I give it ... maybe five years for complete conversion in the industry (to DVD)," says Robert Gatica, Tropical Media's operations manager. "Companies still use videotape for promotional things."

Consumers, though, are making the switch in droves. DVD sales have skyrocketed in recent years, going from 688,000 units sold in 2003 to about 1 billion in 2004, according to Alexander & Associates, a New York-based analysis and consulting firm to the home entertainment industry. Meanwhile, consumer spending on VHS tapes reached a high of \$20 billion in 1999 and dropped to less than \$6.9 billion last year.

Los Angeles-based MSE Media Solutions recycles only professional-format videotape, because individual VHS orders aren't as economical for the company, chief engineer Bill King says. They might consider an order of several thousand VHS tapes, King says, "ship them off to Mexico, but, even then, it's going the way of the horse and buggy."

A more consumer-friendly approach is taken by GreenDisk in Sammamish, Wash., and its outlets nationwide. For about \$30, the company provides households and companies with "techno-trash cans" to dispose of tapes, CDs, cell phones, car-

tridges and other modern-age techno-waste. When their cans are full, consumers can go online to schedule pickups. The company also offers a discard-by-mail version of the service.

David Beschen, GreenDisk president and founder, says his company takes in 10,000 to 20,000 VHS tapes a week and sees the number steadily rising. He contracts with small, non-profit organizations to handle the degaussing.

King of MSE Media Solutions, points out that such processes fall short of the true sense of the word "recycling," of turning the products into something new. "It's actually reconditioning. The tape shell is made from engineering resin that can't be reused."

Yet Sony Corp. announced in August that it's found a way to do just that. The solid polystyrene cases are chemically modified to create a water-soluble liquid polymer that can then be used to pull pollutants from industrial wastewater.

A single cassette shell can treat 65 barrels of wastewater, according to the company's Web site.

Keith Austin, the former president of video recycler Keith Austin Enterprises in Santa Barbara, Calif., predicts that "by 2010 we will be in a tapeless world. We're going beyond the blue-laser DVD and, by 2008, there will be 100 gigabytes on one DVD."

Beschen envisions a rosy future of another kind — new forms of recycling.

"I believe in what Buckminster Fuller said and did," he says. "Invent something."



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Saturday **M'Liss**
A silent film about M'Liss, a feisty young girl in a mining camp who falls for Charles Gray, the school teacher. Charles is implicated in a murder of which he is innocent. Worsham Theatre

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WHAT'S THE DEAL? | Demystifying campus trends

"Kentucky Kribs"

Another glimpse into the off-campus life and style of UK students

During the 1990s, it was "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous," with Robin Leach and his famous British accent, and today, it's "MTV Cribs." Both of these hit television series explore the lives and homes of celebrities, basically showing off anything that makes them cooler than everyone else.



Kenny Moyer
KERNEL COLUMNIST

I don't know why, but I guess viewers just love slobbering over the thought of having indoor basketball courts or a refrigerator full of Red Bulls. Whatever the case is, the show idea was obviously a good one.

So, why not incorporate a similar idea into our campus lifestyle? About two months ago, I explored various off-campus student houses in order to share a glimpse of how others around us are living. We students may not have garages full of million-dollar sports cars or fountains in our backyards, but what we do have is imagination. Let me detail the spotlight houses for this week, and give reasons why we will honor them as having ideal college living conditions.

The first house we'll take a peak at is a beautiful two-story town-home tucked away in a peaceful setting overlooking the tranquil lake (reservoir) water off Lakeshore Drive. This three-bed, two-and-a-half-bath piece of living space in Lakeshore Village provides any college student with the desirable needs of your day-to-day life. When I asked homeowner Jack Wilkinson, a finance senior, what he enjoyed

most about his lovely manor, he simply replied, "On the non-aggressive wind days, I often stroll near the lakefront to study or read (laughing). It provides a perfect environment for the getting-away mood, if you know what I mean."

Yes Jack, I couldn't have agreed with you more. During the tour of the property, I noticed a sailboat drifting from the view off the front porch and couldn't help but to imagine Wilkinson's love for the setting.

As the tour continued, I was introduced to the kitchen and television rooms, both of which left me in pleasant awe. The newly furnished kitchen, with glazing hardwood floors, and sand-colored granite counter top, provides the house with all culinary needs. A wide variety of collectible liquor bottles lined the sink and, when reflecting off the sunlight, gave unique color to the room.

In the TV room, the stone-made fireplace, with fresh flowers dressing the mantle, sits directly near the comfortable sofas and widescreen television. Both of these add a luxurious warm feeling, just right for the winter months approaching. Whether you desire to watch football or cuddle close with a loved one next to an open fire, the room is suitable for all atmospheres. From the front door, the home is only an eight-and-a-half minute drive to campus.

The next house on my spotlight tour is something that would make even the Home and Garden channel proud. Home to Juniors Anne Hale, Andrea Hennig, Lindsay Wardlaw, Megan George, and Courtney McCracken, as well as Maddie, their Jack Russell canine, the "Hambrick House"

closely resembles something you would see in Southern Living. This two-story, five-bedroom, two-bath, bed-and-breakfast type layout, is roughly a five-minute drive to campus, but worth the 15-minute walk, as it is placed in a scenic historic Lexington area. The two things I focused on during the tour, besides the residents, were the entertainment and living rooms.

The entertainment room, if you will, was beautifully decorated by Hale, who thought the Kentucky memorabilia draped on the corner wall was fitting, given the spirit of all who reside in the house. A bar is strategically placed in the opposite corner, where a mini-fridge is also stowed away with various wines, champagnes and more. To cap the room off, a fireplace is centrally located, allowing quick heating and peaceful relaxation.

The living room is lavishly decorated with a myriad of color and attractive aroma. A sound-absorbing area rug sits atop the hard wood floor, easing the comfort of the feet as one walks around. The television is kindly placed in a position that all sofa seats have a full frontal-view.

Other noticeable areas of the house include a fully furnished kitchen, stocked with green tea and buttered eggs, and the front and back porches overlooking the surrounding quarter acre of property.

If you would like to submit a house you believe to positively portray college living conditions and would like to see in a future edition of Kentucky Kribs, please send e-mail to kmoyer@kykernel.com.



Jack Wilkinson, a finance senior, plans on preparing this year's Thanksgiving feast in his large, newly furnished modern kitchen of his house in Lakeshore Village.

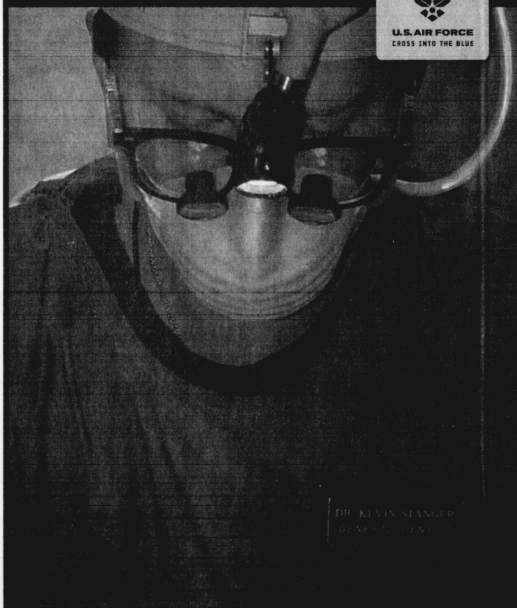
KENNY MOYER | STAFF



KENNY MOYER | STAFF

This view of the lavish Hambrick House living room showcases its mesmerizing and comfortable feeling, enhanced by an attractive aroma and strategically placed television.

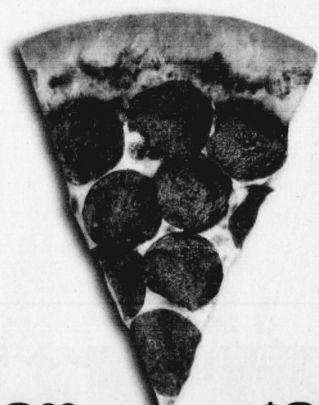
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Diversity

Continued from page 1

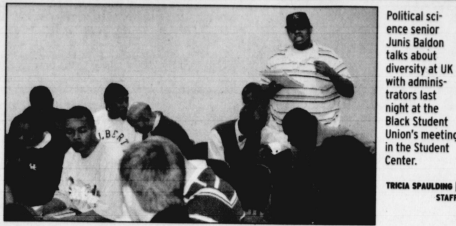
dents, you need to have input from black students," Welch said. "When (you) talk about black students, we want to be there."

Many on both sides of the issue were pleased that the discussion took place.

"The very act of doing this is positive," said Chester Grundy, director of multicultural student programs, adding that he's seen this type of forum before.

"We'll just see. I've been through this maybe four times in my career at the University of Kentucky ... I'm always hopeful."

"It wasn't a gripe session," said LaShala Porter, vice president of the



Political science senior Junis Baldon talks about diversity at UK with administrators last night at the Black Student Union's meeting in the Student Center.

THICIA SPAULDING | STAFF

Black Student Union. "I think the comments were very insightful. The administrative staff turned out, and I was glad with this as well."

"I appreciate the fact that the administration actually value what the stu-

dents think," said Junis Baldon, a political science senior at the meeting. "I just want to make sure it's a long-term effort."

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Halberstam

Continued from page 1

has read any Vietnam books," Halberstam said. "(The Bush administration) does not understand what happened in Vietnam. They were short on their history and high on their hubris."

Halberstam told the near-capacity audience that he believes the war in Iraq is subtracting from the overall battle against terrorism.

"I am deeply saddened by their total miscalculation," he said. "I believe it has made the real job of dealing with al-Qaida and other terrorist groups infinitely more difficult."

In addition to the current military conflict, Halberstam, whose daughter is a second-grade teacher in New York, discussed his concerns with a lack of emphasis currently placed on public grade-school education. He said that America's role as the premier nation in education may soon be surpassed by

other nations, like China and India, which are doing a better job of educating their youth.

"We are slipping and we are losing far too many kids at too young of an age," he said. "We cannot be a great power if we only truly care for a small elite."

The message resonated with the crowd of students, professors and benefactors who gathered for the hour-long speech.

"I definitely agree with him," said journalism and political science sophomore Malloy Inzetta. "I thought it was really interesting that he brought up education. I had never thought about that before."

Beth Barnes, director of UK's School of Journalism and Telecommunications, which helped sponsor the event, felt Halberstam hit the mark with his call to reform K-12 education.

"I think it's true," she said. "I think there is a fundamental problem at the lower levels. If things don't start at the foundation, I'm concerned that many people will never make it to higher edu-

cation.

"We live in a country that talks about the importance of education but never does much about it," she said.

The speech was the first in the distinguished author lecture series presented by UK Libraries. Organizers said they were excited to have an author with Halberstam's breadth of experience.

"I wanted someone with name recognition and who is intellectually stimulating," said Carol Diedrichs, dean of UK Libraries. "Our goal was to engage our students and our community. We wanted a speaker who would pique people's interest — someone who would get people talking and open up conversations and dialogue."

Inzetta said she was proud of the school for bringing in a big name.

"It's huge," she said. "We're really moving toward becoming a top institution. It's encouraging that we can bring someone with his experience here."

STAFF WRITER TRACY LYLE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY

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Vans

Continued from page 1

Sport utility vehicles top the list with a 39 percent rollover rate in single-vehicle crashes. Pickup trucks and other types of vans also roll over at higher percentages than 15-passenger vans, according to the studies.

According to a 2004 NHTSA study, 15-passenger vans with 10 or more passengers have a rollover risk three times greater than vans with fewer than five passengers. The extra weight shifts the van's center of gravity up and back, making the van more likely to roll over in single-vehicle crashes.

Peterson manages two motor pools through the College of Agriculture's Department of Management Operations. One is for the use of the College of Agriculture, while the other is for the rest of the university.

The College of Agriculture motor pool requires training for all drivers, which consists of a video and a multiple-choice quiz. UK's Occupational Health and Safety department administers the training online or by request; the Department of Management Operations maintains a list of eligible drivers on its server. Peterson said the training requirement for all College of Agriculture drivers took effect last May.

No training is required for drivers in the general university motor pool. Instead, these drivers must be a UK employee with a valid driver's license and five years' driving experience; drivers for UK's 15-passenger vans must also be at least 25 years old.

Although the NHTSA recommends that all drivers of 15-passenger vans be trained and experienced, Peterson said he does not have the authority to require training, so UK's administration would have to make the decision.

"You need to have special training," said Richard Frimbes, director of the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety and is the NHTSA contact for the state. "I would say (the 15-passenger vans) are safe, but it behooves the institution to be sure the people driving have received training."

Peterson said UK's motor pool has 17 full-size vans that travel a total of about 250,000 miles each year.

"We have transportation needs we have to meet at a reasonable cost and a reasonable degree of safety," he said. "In his 20 years directing UK's motor pool, Peterson said there have been no rollover accidents or deaths involving 15-passenger vans, and most accidents were minor fender-benders. He attributes the positive record to regular maintenance and a knowledgeable group of drivers."

"I feel that our university drivers are better informed than the general public," he said. "And that is part of our good driving record."

Potential risk versus convenience

The University of Illinois is one of UK's two benchmarks that are currently phasing out 15-passenger vans.

"It was the federal test report," said Mike Hari, Illinois' fleet coordinator. "We have taken it as an opportunity here at Illinois to move to a different van design."

Hari said after the NHTSA's test results, the university decided to use shuttles and heavier, dual rear wheel vans instead. The university does not require driver training, Hari said, but the last row of seats in their vans are removed to promote safety. This helps

shift weight from the rear of the vans and makes them less likely to roll over.

The Ohio State University, which does not require driver training, plans to stop purchasing the vans for university use until further notice.

"Within the next month, we will be placing a moratorium on the purchase of 15-passenger vans until a risk-management assessment can be conducted," said Barbara Swansinger, OSU's fleet coordinator.

Other schools are confident that the vans pose no risks as long as the drivers receive proper training and drive responsibly.

Fleet manager Martha Mungia of Texas A&M said the vans' perceived safety levels differ from person to person.

"It really depends on who you ask," Mungia said. "There's plenty of information available for people to make their own decisions." Mungia said driver training plays an integral role, and that Texas A&M also removes the last row of seats to help prevent overloading hazards.

The vans' higher centers of gravity make their rollover risks comparable to SUVs, said Mike Wilson, fleet manager at the University of Iowa.

"Truthfully, if you look at the statistics, these vans are just as likely to roll as an (Ford) Explorer or (Chevy) Suburban," he said.

At Iowa, Wilson said potential drivers of 15-passenger vans must complete a three-step training program that includes watching a video, completing a workbook and taking a "familiarization drive" with a campus bus driver.

"We wanted to increase safety by giving drivers a better knowledge of what to look for when they are driving," he said.

The University of Minnesota expanded its van training program after two rollovers in early 2002, said Fleet Services Director Bill Roberts.

Roberts said that most of the university's past accidents involved poor weather conditions. Minnesota now requires a two-hour classroom training that covers NHTSA warnings, driver dos and don'ts and the differences between handling 15-passenger vans and cars, he said.

And while Roberts said past accidents and the NHTSA's rollover statistics have certainly been taken into consideration, the comprehensive training program has been successful and the university will not discontinue the use of its 15-passenger vans.

"I haven't seen any data that a 15-passenger van is any less safe than anything else out there," he said.

Peterson said UK has considered alternative vehicles, but many pose their own set of problems. Most are shuttle vehicles that are not intended for highway driving, and often cost twice as much, he said. He also said drivers are more familiar with the current vans.

"Most of our drivers are teachers taking trips or sports teams, and these alternative vehicles are more intimidating to them," he said. "To help counter the rollover risk associated with 15-passenger vans, the NHTSA prints safety guidelines on tags that hang from the vehicle's rearview mirrors. These guidelines recommend that passengers fill the front seats first and also suggest that van owners remove the last row of seats to limit the number of passengers. It tells drivers to check vehicle loading, tires, safety belts and road conditions, as well as driver alertness and experience level."

Peterson was not aware of the NHTSA's tags, but said he would like to see them in UK's vans.

"I'm ready to buy them right now," he said.

Peterson said the motor pool will remove the last row of seats at the driver's request, but the request must be made when the vehicle is booked. The motor pool considered removing all backseats, but decided since most of the vans travel close to campus at slow speeds, the rollover risk is relatively low.

Precautions and alternatives

In May, the NHTSA studied the extent of improper tire inflation among 15-passenger vans. The study found that 74 percent of 15-passenger vans had at least one "significantly mis-inflated" tire — one that's improperly inflated by 25 percent or more. By comparison, the study found that 39 percent of passenger cars failed the same test.

Improper tire inflation changes the handling of 15-passenger vans, which can increase the risk of a rollover. The NHTSA tag suggests that drivers check the tires at least once a month. At UK, the motor pool checks tires before each rental, Peterson said.

"We never let a vehicle off our lot unless we know for sure it's safe that day," he said.

Peterson said tire gauges are not installed in UK's vans, partly because of theft concerns.

The University of Iowa recently installed a wireless tire pressure system in its vans, Wilson said. Gauges attach to each tire and constantly monitor pressure, which is displayed on a monitor in the van's cabin. Wilson said Fleet Services is testing the system this semester, and it may become a permanent fixture in the spring, based on performance tests.

And while seat belts cannot prevent a rollover crash, the NHTSA reports that their use greatly increases the chances of survival in an accident. Between 1990 and 2003, 80 percent of people who died in rollover crashes were not wearing their seat belts. Kentucky law mandates all drivers and their passengers wear seat belts.

When Vanessa Wicinski, a middle school education senior, traveled to Erlanger, Ky., to attend the Kentucky Middle School Association State Conference with other students from UK's College of Education two months ago, her travel experience was less than satisfactory. Wicinski said the van made an "awful noise" as they drove on the interstate and seemed to labor when climbing even a slight incline.

"I knew we would make it back safe and sound, but my professors and classmates could not keep ourselves from laughing at the conditions and noises of the van," she said. "We truly had an entrance as we pulled into the hotel parking lot."

Still, Wicinski said she felt safe during the trip.

"I was completely comfortable the entire time, as I knew I was with two professors and my classmates," she said.

Peterson said the best option for UK is a safer version of the current model. He said auto manufacturers are now installing stability control systems in 15-passenger vans, and as soon as he has the budget, he wants to purchase one from General Motors Corp.

"What we are all looking for is a more stable passenger van," he said.

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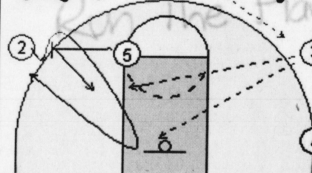
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Setting sights on postseason

By Chris Delotell
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

After completing a regular season in which the UK volleyball team shattered a decade of futility, the Cats head to this weekend's Southeastern Conference Tournament hoping to break another embarrassing statistic.

The program has not won a tournament game in six years.

UK (17-9, 10-6 SEC) finished the regular season last Sunday with a 3-1 win at Arkansas. The Cats, who have the tournament's No. 5 seed, will face the Razorbacks again tomorrow in the first round. Despite dominating Arkansas (19-10, 11-5 SEC) in Fayetteville just last week, the UK players do not feel any mental advantage heading into the match.

"It's like we've been poking at the beehive," said senior outside hitter Danielle Wallace (front) stands at the net during pre-game practice with sophomore Kiresen Cunningham and senior Leigh Marcum.



Senior outside hitter Danielle Wallace (front) stands at the net during pre-game practice with sophomore Kiresen Cunningham and senior Leigh Marcum.

UK takes on Arkansas in the first round of the Southeastern Conference Tournament tomorrow at 1 p.m.

The Cats beat the Razorbacks 3-1 in their regular season finale in Fayetteville, Ark.

HILLY SCHIFFER
STAFF

We're not overconfident at all." Head coach Craig Skinner, who is the leading candidate for the SEC Coach of the Year award after engineering a seven-win turnaround in his first season, was proud of his team for rebounding to win Sunday.

The Cats lost a five-game heartbreaker at Louisiana State on Friday. "That's something our team has done pretty well all season," Skinner said. "They did a really good job bouncing back from the loss on Friday to win on Sunday."

Despite the season sweep of Arkansas, Skinner does not feel his team has any advantage heading into the tournament.

"In a tournament situation, anything can happen," he said. "Our team is really excited to be in the tournament and we expect to perform at the highest level."

The Cats face a tough road in the tourney and will likely face top-seeded Florida in the second round. The Gators (25-2, 15-1) swept UK twice this season, but both matches were tight. The Cats are anxious for a third crack at the Gators.

"It's exciting," Wallace said. "We would like to be playing them in the champi-

onship, but playing them in the second round might make the championship a little easier. We just want to play Florida again."

In addition to the goal of winning the SEC Tournament, the Cats also know that any success they have this weekend may be benefi-

feel like we deserve to go, but we need to play well this weekend."

The Cats will not change their approach to this weekend's matches. Skinner said the team's focus needs to remain on doing the best they can, not worrying about the opposition.

"Your preparation has to be on you," Skinner said. "It's about executing on your side of the net and being efficient."

The players said they're having too much fun right now for the season to end. They noted their excitement, given where the program has been in the past, to be playing for a championship this late in the season.

"We always need to worry about our game," Casper said. "We need to approach every match all out and not leave anything out on the floor."

"The NCAA Tournament is definitely in sight. I feel like we deserve to go."



Jenni Casper
junior libero

cial in improving their run for the NCAA Tournament.

"The NCAA Tournament is definitely in sight," junior libero Jenni Casper said. "I

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Abren suspended for Georgia game

Sophomore defensive tackle Ricky Abren has been suspended for the Georgia game for violating team rules, UK head coach Rich Brooks announced yesterday. No other information was given.

Abren had missed a number of games this season due to injury.

Gagnon on SEC Good Works Team

UK volleyball junior Julie Gagnon was named to the Southeastern Conference Volleyball Good Works Team, the league announced yesterday.

The defensive specialist from Wheaton, Ill., "spends countless hours giving back to the community through various service efforts," UK Athletics said in a release.

She has participated in Bingo at the UK Children's Hospital and has been featured as a guest at a Northern Elementary School

pep rally.

She also mentors students at Johnson and Madison Elementary schools.

Gagnon also took part in the American Heart Walk.

Twice last year, Gagnon was named to the Academic All-SEC team in 2004.

Three football Cats on national ballot for Academic All-America

Wildcat kicker Taylor Begley, cornerback Antoine Huffman and offensive tackle Hayden Lane will be on the national ballot for Academic All-America. The three will be representing the regional All-District IV.

Seniors Begley and Huffman, and junior Lane qualified for having a career grade-point average greater than 3.2.

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All tournaments held at 7PM in the Student Center Cats Den. Winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to represent UK at the ACUI Region 5 spring tournament (held Feb. 17-19 at East Carolina University). For more information call the Cat's Den Programming office at 257-2544 or email tournaments@lsv.uky.edu

IN OUR OPINION

SG moving toward real progress

In recent weeks, Student Government has been making long-overdue strides toward reforming its election process and holding its officials accountable for showing up to meetings and logging hours in the office. If SG continues this trend of reflection and improvement, it will have a solid foundation for better representing and serving the student body in the future.

Past SG incompetence and fiascoes have largely been the result of a disturbing negligence toward the organization's internal workings. Vague phrasing in the constitution contributed to multiple election disasters, including this year's prolonged fight. An obsolete, machine-based voting system has inconvenienced students and probably helped

reduced turnout in SG elections. With little to no incentive to show up to meetings or the office, some SG officials have neglected their duties, thus doing a disservice to the students who voted them in and — since negligence means little work is getting done in the first place — effectively nipping prospects for reform in the bud.

The SG Senate's passage of the Accountability Act of 2005 on Nov. 9 was a solid step toward reversing this trend of irresponsibility. The act requires SG officials who receive a salary to post their office hours publicly.

We understand that top SG officials are making a large time commitment that can preclude them from holding other jobs and that they therefore deserve mon-

etary compensation. This act simply ensures that they're holding up their end of the bargain: Student fees will fund their SG salaries, but only if they put in the necessary time. That's reasonable for everyone involved.

At the Nov. 9 meeting, the Senate struck down another portion of the Accountability Act, which would have required executive communication director Jason Robinson to give a report at each meeting about recent SG events.

Leaving aside the claim of some senators that the

proposal violated the separation of executive and legislative powers, making the communication director give a report seems redundant. SG President Becky Ellingsworth **a r e e d y** speaks at every meeting during "Presidential Privilege," and Robinson said in a meeting with The Kernel Editorial Board this week that he **n o r m a l l y** speaks at the end of meetings, during "Member's Privilege." Making SG meetings unnecessarily long would do little good, and so the Senate's decision to strike down this re-

quirement isn't a cause for concern.

The Senate also formed a committee to look into online voting, which would be a major step toward modernizing SG elections and improving turnout. Polling over the Web would allow students to vote at their convenience, without waiting in line or potentially not being able to vote at all due to scheduling conflicts. And voting hours would not depend on the availability of poll workers — unlike this spring, when already-short polling times had to be further reduced because of a lack of help.

The final election revision to come out of the Nov. 9 meeting, an act requiring students to give their name and date of birth rather than name and Social Security

number, is a mixed good. We think SG petitions should take the same form as ballot petitions for Kentucky elections, which require signers to give either their date of birth or their Social Security number as well as their residential address. We don't want SG petitions to leave students vulnerable to identity theft, and so it was right to take out the Social Security number requirement, but requiring the inclusion of an address would reduce the chances of signature fraud.

Nevertheless, the general trend of recent actions reflects a propensity toward reform among Ellingsworth and the rest of SG. As this continues, SG will come closer to realizing its potential to be a positive force for change on campus.

Several reforms and initiatives give students hope if they are seen through by representatives.

Criticizing administration over war isn't unpatriotic

Sometimes, I still have nightmares about the closing months of the 2004 campaign. I'll wake up in a cold sweat, startled by visions of Bush administration officials and conservative pundits implying that war opponents are somehow unpatriotic or hurting U.S. troops by questioning the beginning and motivation of the Iraq war. I've been trying to convince myself that these frights are just the result of political scarring and an overactive imagination, but President Bush's Veterans Day speech convinced me that my nightmares are coming true.

"Some Democrats and anti-war critics are now claiming we manipulated the intelligence and misled the American people about why we went to war," Bush said.

"The stakes in the global war on terror are too high, and the national interest is too important for politicians to throw out false charges," he said. "These baseless attacks send the wrong signal to our troops and to an enemy that is questioning America's will."

As surveys show the public increasingly turning against the war and questioning its beginnings — a recent NBC poll says 57 percent of Americans believe Bush was deliberately misleading in the run-up to the war — I can't divine what Bush's political motivation is for such a verbal attack. Nevertheless, his rhetoric is representative of the worrisome attitude that trying to reveal the truth about the war would somehow be a bad thing.

Would hearing that the war was based on false pretenses hurt U.S. soldiers' morale and thus put them in danger? Maybe. I have no pretense to knowing how much access troops abroad have to news media, nor what affects their morale, nor what effect morale has on combat efficacy. But is the fault that of the critic who points out the falsehood or of the person who allowed it to direct U.S. policy? Absurdly, Bush's speech seems to blame the critic.

And it's virtually undisputed that the war was based on a falsehood — namely, that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and was advancing toward producing a nuclear weapon. The question is whether the falsehood was spread deliberately or was simply the result of incompetence and horrendous fact-checking. And we have good reason to believe the former.

Despite Bush's repeated assertions that he had not already decided to go to war until the bombs were dropping, it was fairly obvious at the time that the administration was dead-set on war — and this intuition was confirmed by the release of the Downing Street Memo, a July 2002 document from a British official which said, "Military action was now seen as inevitable... The intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy."

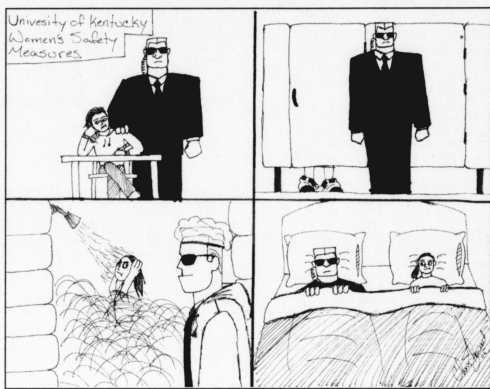
At this point, of course, Bush would object and say as he did in his Nov. 11 speech, that Democrats "had access to the same intelligence" and thus must have been lying, too. Though I wouldn't put it past our barely-left-of-center party to be complicit in an administration lie, especially in the brutishly jingoistic year following the Sept. 11 attacks and leading up to the 2002 midterm elections, the claim that Democrats had access to the same intelligence is disgustingly disingenuous.

As Walter Pincus and Dana Milbank pointed out in the Nov. 12 Washington Post, legislators don't see the President's Daily Brief and other highly sensitive information. And, Pincus and Milbank reported, "there were doubts within the intelligence community not included in" the National Intelligence Estimate on the supposed threat from Iraq, which was given to Congress only a few days before the October 2002 vote to authorize the use of force in Iraq — after which all decision making went to the White House.

We'll probably never know for sure whether the Iraq falsehoods were deliberate; if relevant tapes and transcripts even exist (which is doubtful, if Bush learned anything at all from the example of President Richard Nixon), they won't be made public for decades. But a reasonable observer, such as the current majority of the U.S. public, can look at the evidence we do have and come to the conclusion that we were misled.

That's not unpatriotic; it's an exercise in critical thinking and intellectual honesty — traits sorely lacking in the Bush administration.

Brenton Kenkel is a philosophy and political science sophomore. E-mail: bkennel@kykernel.com.



CHRIS STEWART, THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

Iraq war is a fight for freedom

I was displeased to open The Kentucky Kernel last Friday and read Alexandra Thomas' article, "American troops should exit Iraq." In the article, Thomas invited any pro-war supporter to dispute or justify the facts she presented. And so I have decided to respond.

Not only do I disagree with the arguments made, but also, after serving three-plus years on active duty status in the U.S. Army, that this is the lowest casualty rate our military has ever seen in a time of war. Then again, Desert Storm was only a 55-hour ground battle, not one that involves rebuilding a nation from the ground up.

I pray every night for the safe return of all of our soldiers fighting overseas, having known hundreds of them personally. Every soldier who has gone and fought has volunteered to do so. Our government had used a military draft in every previous major conflict. But currently, an all-volunteer force has allowed for a professional military to spread the seeds of democracy throughout.

To answer the question: Why are we still there? It is very simple. We are not finished yet. Yes, we have removed a barbaric dictator and freed an oppressed people, yet we are not finished. America is there to provide the people of Iraq with the freedoms we enjoy every day here in this country. A democracy will not form in a matter of months, or even years.

Recall that America was a confederation before we adopted the Constitution as our legal framework for our current government. It took years of battle during the Revolutionary War to gain our freedom and many more to establish a democracy. Additionally, the Constitution is a living document, having to be revised with amendments.

Our troops will stay in Iraq until the job is finished. That is, until the Iraqi people can sustain their own government without the military support of our soldiers. There can be no timetable or exit strategy for this, just know that it will take time. The last time America exited a nation in turmoil, South Vietnam fell to the North Vietnamese communists.

This is the smallest in our nation's history, especially during a time of war. The only time this number fell below 10 percent during a time of war

was during Desert Storm in the early '90s, coming in around 8 percent. I commend our elected and military officials for managing a war at such little monetary cost. But the cost of war is far more than dollars spent by Congress.

More than 30,000 Iraqi civilians have died since the beginning of the war. The loss of life is a terrible thing, but the majority of these deaths have come at the hands of their fellow countrymen.

Now onto the final statistic provided — one that is sad for me to look at. More than 2,000 American soldiers have died, and even one life lost is one too many. However, with the exception of Desert Storm, this is the lowest casualty rate our military has ever seen in a time of war. Then again, Desert Storm was only a 55-hour ground battle, not one that involves rebuilding a nation from the ground up.

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Our troops will stay in Iraq until the job is finished. That is, until the Iraqi people can sustain their own government without the military support of our soldiers. There can be no timetable or exit strategy for this, just know that it will take time. The last time America exited a nation in turmoil, South Vietnam fell to the North Vietnamese communists.

This is the smallest in our nation's history, especially during a time of war. The only time this number fell below 10 percent during a time of war

and listened as many poor arguments were made. I will state that shouting obscenities at each other is not the way for civilized and educated people to argue.

As a member of the UK College Republicans, I can say that I was listening. I am not here to label anyone as anti-American or anti-troops, but that people must listen to both sides of the argument and form educated opinions.

In the short time I observed the demonstration, I heard a fellow student state that ROTC cadets are getting their schooling free so they can go lead this war. This is false. At West Point, my schooling was paid for because the country cannot think of a better way to pay the debt of those volunteering to lead the sons and daughters of this great nation into combat.

James Webb, former secretary of the Navy said, "Midshipmen and cadets remain stronger and more aggressive than their male counterparts at civilian schools. They eagerly play sports such as rugby, boxing, karate, lacrosse and field ball. They drive fast cars, usually sports cars. They play hard. They drink hard. They are physical, often abusive among each other. They are not trying to prove their manhood; they are celebrating their masculinity. They are competitive, often vulgar, and tough, and every citizen who may someday send a friend or relative into war should rejoice, because combat is competitive, vulgar, and tough, and they will be leading men into combat."

These cadets that just so happen to be UK students should be applauded for the sacrifices they are making to keep us free. Remember, it is the soldier that protects the right for us to voice our opinions.

In closing, I open myself to discussion and debate. Until this point, I had kept my mouth shut.

The distaste and lack of class for publishing a Bush-bashing and war-bashing article on Veterans Day could not be ignored.

Perhaps a quote attributed to 20th century author George Orwell will help all realize the sacrifices soldiers make daily: "People sleep peacefully in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."

If it weren't for our soldiers, we wouldn't be here as a flourishing democracy today.

Matthew Ballard is an economics senior. E-mail: matballard@kykernel.com.



Matthew Ballard
KERNEL COLUMNIST

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UK junior goalie chucks job for puck-stopping net time

By Laura Nelligan
THE KENTUCKY KERNEL

When junior goalie Drew Matichak graduated from high school, he said he was done with hockey.

But when he came to UK, his mom gave him an option: Either play hockey for the Cool Cats, or get a job.

He chose hockey.

"I had no idea about the hockey program," Matichak said. "I was just pretty much coming here to go straight to school. Then my mom made me bring my equipment and I really enjoyed it. I liked everyone on the team and I liked coach a lot and everything just started happening from there."

This deal seemed to work out for the UK hockey team as well. UK had just lost its freshman goaltender, who was supposed to start.

"Drew just kind of took the opportunity and ran with it," said head coach Mike Sosnowski. "He did everything we asked him last year, and he showed us what he could do. He came in this year as our solid starting No. 1 goaltender. He's gotten a comfortable feel for it."

Matichak has an 89 percent goal save average — 428 saves on the year.

"When we come in on game night and coach says that Drew is in net, you can tell that the guys get their focus back," said junior goalie Mike Kilbane. "Drew has something that not a lot of goaltenders get, and that is an unspoken confidence within the team."

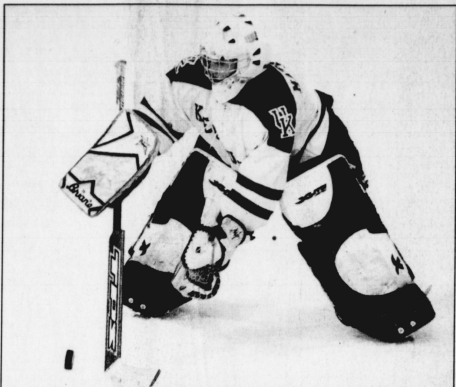
"They know, no matter if they go against an NHL team, they have a chance to win as long as Drew is in the net."

Although Kilbane is one of Matichak's backups, there isn't any hostility. Matichak said Kilbane supports him the most, and is one of his best friends on the team.

"It's frustrating being a backup goaltender and not seeing time, but when you're sitting behind a guy that good, I have no problem with it," Kilbane said. "We have a blast off the ice together and we have a good working relationship, which I've never really had on a team before."

Sosnowski said throughout his coaching experience, goaltenders seem

Will work for saves



KEITH HANLEY / STAFF

UK hockey goalie Drew Matichak, a junior, blocks a shot during a Nov. 4 game against Wright State at the Lexington Ice Center. Matichak has 428 saves this season.

to not work extremely hard in practice, for whatever reason. But Matichak is different.

"Drew works as hard as anyone at practices, and he's an extremely coachable kid," Sosnowski said. "A lot of goaltenders don't like to be told what to do and how to do it; you just sort of leave him alone. Drew comes up to me and asks for input, which is a great attitude to have because most coaches aren't goaltenders."

Sosnowski, who was a wing in his playing days, said Matichak's attitude helps him coaching.

"We're trying to coach them from a completely backwards point of view, which is from what the forwards see, instead of what the goaltender's mindset is," he said.

Handling pressure is one of the biggest facets of being a goalie, especially a starting goalie, who usually plays all 60 minutes of a game. Kilbane compared the role of a goalie with that of a pitcher or a quarterback. When the game's not going well, they are the ones that the team relies on.

"Drew has such a square head on his shoulders," Kilbane said. "He's not gonna let that pressure get to him. There's always pressure, but with Drew, he's so calm and cool in pressure situations, he just lets it roll off his shoulders. You'd never know the kid was frantic."

Matichak recognizes that extra stress goalies have. In fact, he laughs about it.

"I tell all the guys on the team if I have kids, they're not playing goalie," Matichak said. "Whether it was a good goal or a bad goal, it can get stressful. But, then there are games where I've stopped fifty shots — it's a blast."

Sosnowski commended Matichak for the amount of care he puts into his game preparation.

"Two hours before the game, don't even try to talk to him, because he is in a world of his own," Sosnowski said. "He goes off on his own. He gets stretched out on his own. It's kind of like a field goal kicker in football."

But Matichak said UK hockey is still a unit.

"I love the team," Matichak said. "We have team unity, and no one really singles anyone out. Being the No. 1 goalie is a lot about pride. You have a team believing every game that they have a chance of winning because you're at the net."

Just because Matichak didn't want a job when he came to Kentucky, didn't mean he wasn't willing to work.

"He is always looking and working and trying to get better," Sosnowski said. "The old saying is that the goaltender is the backbone of the team. I think Drew really takes that to heart that he knows he's the last guy on the ice before the puck goes in the net."

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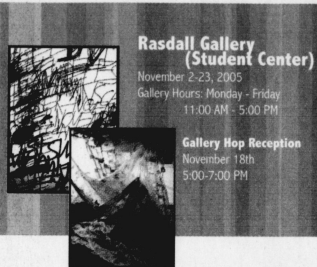
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