

# KENTUCKY KERNEL

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

## Program to explore impact, history of n-word

By Ashton Smith  
news@kykernel.com

Christopher Harper believes that the n-word is "one of the strongest hate words used today."

The agricultural communications senior and president of UK's Black Student Union, said hate speech builds barriers between people and prevents society from moving forward.

Students will get a chance to talk about their feelings toward the n-word and its history with Velesha Smith, director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center, today at 4 p.m. in room 206 of the Student Center.

The program will include a detailed history of the n-word, an examination of its actual meaning and a chance for people to talk and ask questions, said Jeremiah Muwanga, a graphic designer at the cultural center who designed the event's flyers.

Muwanga said the importance of the event is to educate people who may not understand the effect of the n-word.

"It is for people who use it blindly without understanding and people who use it even when they understand," said Muwanga, a music and African-American studies senior. "People will be able to ask questions as a white person, a black person, an Asian person and hopefully will come away with a deeper understanding of the seriousness surrounding the word."

Harper said he hopes the event will educate people about the meaning surrounding the n-word.

"The offensive and negative connotation needs to change, but this would take a lot of time," said Harper who said he believes the n-word should be removed from everyone's vocabulary.

This is the first time the Black Student Union will collaborate with the cultural center on this event.

## Rosenberg relatives to speak on campus

STAFF REPORT

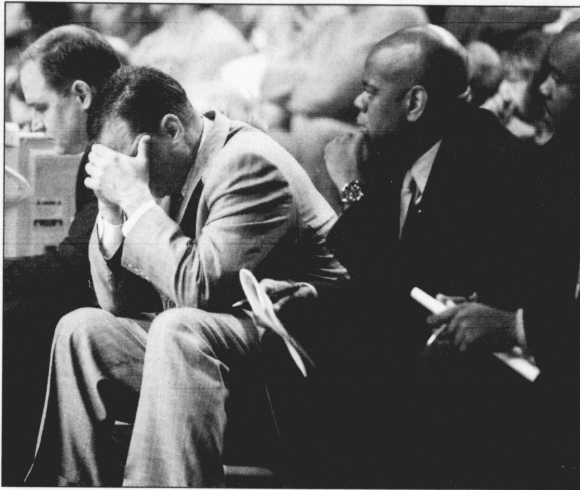
The son and granddaughter of two people executed in one of the United States' most controversial cases will be on campus today to present "McCarthy-Era Lessons for Post-9/11 America."

Robert Meeropol was only six years old when his parents, Communist Party USA members Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, were executed in 1953 after being found guilty of giving information about the American nuclear bomb to the Soviet Union.

He and his daughter, Rachel Meeropol, will draw comparisons between the McCarthy era, when the Rosenbergs were executed, and the United States following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The event, a joint public lecture and discussion, will be at 4 p.m. in the auditorium of the W. T. Young Library. The event and reception are free and a book signing will follow.

## UK 62, STONY BROOK 52



ED MATTHEWS | STAFF  
ABOVE: Head coach Billy Gillispie puts his head down in the first half of last night's game. The Cats committed 23 turnovers on their way to beating Stony Brook. "Not a very pretty game at all," Gillispie said of UK's 62-52 victory.  
BELOW: Sophomore forward Ramon Harris celebrates after dunking the ball in the first half of UK's win over Stony Brook.

## 'Not a very pretty game at all'

By Travis Waldron  
twaldron@kykernel.com

It has been three weeks since UK fell to Gardner-Webb in Rupp Arena, but the opening moments of last night's game against Stony Brook had an eerily similar feeling to the loss against the Runnin' Bulldogs.

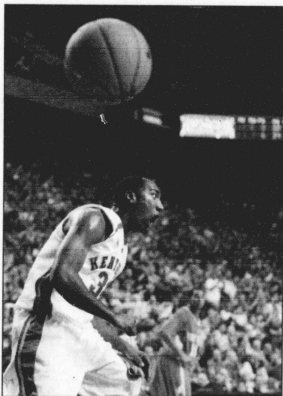
The Cats could not score, could not take the lead, could not hold on to the basketball and found themselves in an early deficit.

But unlike Gardner-Webb, Stony Brook did not take advantage of UK's early mistakes. Eventually, the Cats overcame the slow start and knocked off the Seawolves 62-52 last night in front of 19,269 fans at Rupp Arena.

"Not a very pretty game at all," head coach Billy Gillispie said. "But it's a win. We'll try to move on and hopefully we're going to get better."

UK (4-1) made just one of its first 13 shots and scored only four points in the first 10 minutes of the game. When sophomore forward Barry Stevenson scored his third basket with 5:25 to play in the first half, he gave UK its first lead at 14-12.

But Stony Brook (0-6) did not capitalize on the poor start. Stony Brook forced nine first half turnovers, but they committed 12 turnovers of their own. The Seawolves held UK to 40.7 percent shooting in the first half but went just 6-for-22 (27.3 percent) from the field.



BRITNEY MCINTOSH | STAFF

See **Basketball** on page 3

## Trouble with zone 'D' could haunt UK this season



JONATHAN SMITH  
UK columnist

Here's an open letter to the coaches that are going to play Kentucky this season: Guard the Cats' offense with a zone defense.

There's no need to call Syracuse head coach Jim Boheim to perfect it. Just run the standard version that you've taught for years.

It's UK's Achilles heel (listen up, Tar Heels). The Cats will almost certainly get better at attacking it as the season goes on, but opposing coaches should try it right now. If you do, you'll have success.

That's what Stony Brook did last night. They stayed in a zone defense for most of

the game and kept the score close all night, losing 62-52 at Rupp Arena. The Seawolves would have won too if they didn't shoot an abysmal 34.5 percent from the field.

But it took UK a long time to put away the team picked by their conference's coaches to finish 7th out of nine teams in the America East. That's because of Stony Brook's zone defense.

Zones can be defeated two ways: by penetrating the gaps and finding open players, and by shooting 3-pointers over top of the defense. UK does neither very well.

See **Smith** on page 3

## Students create day for secular thinkers

By C.J. Conklin  
news@kykernel.com

A campus group will promote secular ideas and offer students a chance to display their nonreligious outlook today at the first ever Secular Solidarity Day.

UK SHIFT, the Society for Humanistic, Intellectual and Free Thought, will host the event in front of the Classroom Building from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The group encourages students, especially those that consider themselves to be atheists, agnostics, humanists, free-thinkers, or another nonreligious affiliation, to stop by to find out more about secularism.

Adam Leedy, an electrical engineering senior who helped create the group and now serves as its vice president, hopes the event brings secular students together.

"We want to make it obvious that there is a secular thinking population at this university with a voice to be heard," Leedy said.

The organization will be handing out yellow buttons for anyone to wear to show their support of secular thinking, said Johannah Oldiges, a senior English major who helped organize the event.

The purpose of the organization, which was started at UK in the spring of 2006, is to provide a community for secular students at UK that encourages creative thinking, free from any form of religion, Leedy said.

"I started UK SHIFT because I wanted to create a place for people with non-theistic views like mine to interact," Leedy said. "I didn't really know any people on campus who shared views similar to my own, but I knew that they had to exist."

The group meets twice a month on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. to discuss event planning or interesting topics that relate to secularism. Any student can join the group by showing up at a meeting or contacting any of the current members.

Though this is the first Secular Solidarity Day, the group has hosted numerous events on campus since the group started. Last January they hosted Darwin Day, which featured a lecture on evolution from biology professor James Krupa. In spring 2006, the group showed the movie, "The God Who Wasn't There," Leedy said. SHIFT also celebrated National Day of Reason last spring with a documentary from evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, titled "Root of All Evil."

The group hopes that Secular Solidarity Day will become an annual event at UK, Leedy said, but it could depend on funding in the future since SHIFT is not directly funded by UK.

"SHIFT doesn't get any direct funding from any particular entity," Leedy said. "When we want to put together an event we usually just throw in as much money as we can and try to budget accordingly. The good thing is most of our events don't require much cash since a lot of our speakers offer their time for free."

## Local organizations look for volunteers over winter break

By Amanda Currier  
news@kykernel.com

As the semester comes to an end, community organizations are urging students to think twice about sitting on the couch watching television and consider taking volunteer opportunities in Lexington.

UK's Center for Community Outreach offers opportunities both with on-campus events and with community organizations.

DanceBlue, an annual 24-hour dance marathon to benefit UK's Pediatric Oncology Unit, will continue its fundraising efforts over winter break to prepare for the event on Feb. 22-23.

The fundraising may include canning, where teams of students hit the streets of Lexington to collect money, according to the DanceBlue Web site (www.DanceBlue.org). DanceBlue will hold a meeting tomorrow in room 230 of the Student Center.

The Center for Community Outreach also offers volunteer opportunities through the university-sponsored organization Helping Hands.

Helping Hands collaborates with Lexington's Catholic Action Center and the Hope Center to serve weekly meals to the homeless. To get involved with Helping Hands, contact Director Kallie Turner by e-mail at kallie.turner@uky.edu.

Students can find volunteer oppor-

tunities outside of UK's campus as well, which could result in life-changing experiences for some, said Mark Bueger with Kentucky Special Olympics.

"The rewards you get from the experience outweigh the time you put in," said Bueger, the communications director for the organization.

"Working with our organization, you get the chance to share in the joy of our athletes' experience," Bueger said.

Kentucky Special Olympics will host a bowling tournament Dec. 1-3 at Collins Bowling Lanes on Southland Drive.

The organization is also in need of volunteers for its winter basketball

league from Jan. 7-Feb. 13. Volunteers can work up to three hours Monday and Wednesday nights keeping score and working with the athletes.

Bueger also encouraged student organizations to sign-up for this year's Polar Bear Plunge, where people jump into a pool on Jan. 26 at Applebee's Park to raise money for the Special Olympics.

More information is available on the Kentucky Special Olympics Web site (www.sokyo.org).

Other community outreach opportunities include work with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that

See **Volunteering** on page 3

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## HOROSCOPES

**By Linda C. Black**  
To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries (March 21 April 19)** — Today is an 8 — Be careful what you say, especially if you're keeping secrets. It's not a good day to gamble, get tattoos or make romantic promises.

**Taurus (April 20 May 20)** — Today is a 6 — Make sure the information you've found gets to the right person. That would be the one who can make the changes you have in mind. No need to tell anyone else.

**Gemini (May 21 June 21)** — Today is an 8 — You're full of ideas, but not all of them are going to work, you know. Run tests and dis-

card the ones that will cost you more than they bring in.

**Cancer (June 22 July 22)** — Today is an 8 — As if by magic, when you let people know what you want, things start happening to help you get it. Be forceful, assertive, direct and precise.

**Leo (July 23 Aug. 22)** — Today is an 8 — Don't believe a spiteful rumor. Consider the source. Listen, but maintain an objective stance until you check it out.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 Sept. 22)** — Today is a 6 — You're starting to notice a couple of things that really should be done. Sure, you could put them off for a while, but would that really be wise? No, it wouldn't.

**Libra (Sept. 23 Oct. 22)** — Today is an 8 — Friends want to know how you achieved your recent victory. No need to tell them. Keep your hidden advantage.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Today is a 6 — An older person wants you to prove you know what you're

...talking about. This ought to be easy. Ace the test and advance your career.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 Dec. 21)** — Today is an 8 — Get your plans settled so you can take a little bit of time off. Even a few hours will rejuvenate your spirit. A few days would be even better.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 Jan. 19)** — Today is a 6 — Don't let financial worries get you into a dither. That's a waste of valuable energy. Another source of income's nearby, so it's a waste of time, too.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 Feb. 18)** — Today is an 8 — Important people know you are a force with which to be reckoned. Beneath that cool exterior beats the heart of a lion.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 March 20)** — Today is a 7 — Wouldn't you know it? Just when you think the hard part is over, you find there's more work to be done. Actually, the hard part is over.

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# HOT STUFF

Owen Wilson —  
His Mystery Girl Revealed!

## the Dish

Down-to-earth model Le Call is helping the actor ease back into normal life

Owen Wilson is stepping out with a new blonde stunner — and it's not Jessica Simpson. Hot Stuff has learned that Wilson's current squeeze is One Model Management catwalker Le Call, 25. The pair (who met through friends) have been dating casually for several weeks but are seeing a lot of each other, a source close to Wilson tells Us. "She's a sweet girl with a great heart," says the source. "She helps keep Owen grounded." Despite being photographed around the Big Apple, the troubled funnyman, 39, and Call, a Cape Girardeau, Missouri, native living in NYC, haven't been hitting the club scene. Adds the pal: "They enjoy biking and doing outdoorsy stuff." That's a departure from Wilson's flirtation with Simpson, 27, with whom he was spotted in early November living it up at bars in Manhattan and Santa Monica, California. Notes the source: "Owen needs someone like Le. She has been a great sense of comfort for him."

### CIA Recruits Hollywood

The CIA is tired of being represented negatively in films like Rendition and Syriana. "We're painted as killers," says a CIA insider. Hot Stuff has learned that the agency is sending its "entertainment liaison" Paul Barry to Hollywood each month to meet with stars, producers and screenwriters — even offering to bring them to Langley, Virginia, to tour CIA

facilities. Actress Kristy Swanson, 37, who recently met with Barry (whose duties include consulting on film scripts), tells Us, "I found it hugely informative. It's not every day you have lunch with a CIA agent!" Adds Barry, "Kristy reminds me of the working moms at the agency."

### Howard K. Stern — 'I'm Broke!'

Things have gotten even harder for the embattled Howard K. Stern. Since the passing of his partner (and only client), Anna Nicole Smith, the attorney claims he's having trouble making ends meet. "I am basically broke," Stern, 38, tells Us. "There's this impression that I am somehow making money off of Anna's death. It couldn't be further from the truth." Stern adds he is "juggling" more than a dozen related lawsuits and owes his parents "hundreds of thousands of dollars." As for the disturbing clown video circulating on the Internet? "That was an hourlong video that was stolen and cut down to less than a minute," he tells Us. "It was meant to make Anna and me look bad."

### Heidi & Seal's Ex Run-in

As Heidi Klum, 34, lovingly introduced husband Seal, 44, on stage at the fifth anniversary of NYC hot spot Butter on November 5, her ex-husband, hairdresser Ric Pipino, listened from the back. "It was awkward," says a source. Having a less uncomfortable time were exes Mandy Moore, 23, and DJ A.M., 34,

who hung out in the DJ booth. Says an insider, "They're just friends."

### Hilary, Mike: altar-bound?

Are wedding bells in the works for Hilary Duff, 20, and her beau Mike Comrie? A source close to the New York Islanders skater, 27, says he's shopping for an engagement ring. "They're serious," says the insider, who adds that despite dating Duff for only four months, "he's whipped. He never goes out with his boys; he's all about Hilary." (Comrie's rep couldn't be reached.)

### Jim & Jenny Moving In

Jim Carrey and Jenny McCarthy may have sworn off matrimony, but that doesn't mean they can't shack up! A source tells Hot Stuff: McCarthy, 35, and her son, Evan, 5 (who is autistic), recently moved into Carrey's home in L.A.'s Brentwood. "Jim has a huge property with plenty of space," says the insider. "He treats Evan like his own son and thinks it's a lot of fun to have a kid in his house again." Cohabitation seems to suit the funny-man, 45, and his girlfriend of two years. "They work really well together, and although Jim doesn't want to get married again, he is crazy about Jenny," adds the source. Still, some have questioned McCarthy's motivation. "Jenny tells people she doesn't want to get married again either," notes the insider. "But Jim's friends think she's lying and would love to marry him."

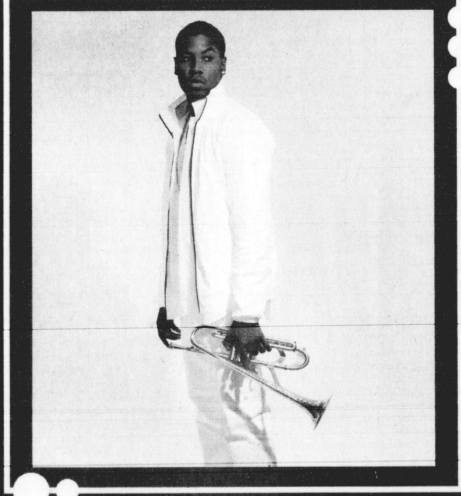
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# CHRISTIAN SCOTT

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## BASKETBALL

Continued from page 1

By halftime, UK had made eight of its final 14 shots, and sophomore forward Patrick Patterson's layup before the first half buzzer capped a 14-2 run that gave the Cats a 26-14 halftime lead.

UK stretched the lead to 18 points with 10:14 to play, but Stony Brook got as close as six points with 6:37 left in the game.

Though UK could not come up with a defensive stop, Patterson and Stevenson scored UK's next eight points to push the lead to 51-41.

It was the second straight game that UK dominated a smaller team in the lane, outscoring Stony Brook 44-16 in the paint.

Patterson led the Cats with 19 points and 12 rebounds to earn his third double-double of the season. Stevenson recorded career highs in points and rebounds with 18 points and 10 boards for his first career double-double.

"We didn't get the ball to Patterson nearly enough," Gillispie said. "I thought Stevenson had his best contest of the year for us. He definitely came ready to play. He has to improve as well, but I thought he played with a little more confidence and a little more toughness."

Stevenson acknowledged his confidence boost.

"He's always telling us to be more confident," Stevenson said. "I guess I finally started listening to him."

But heading into UK's meeting with North Carolina on Saturday, Gillispie said

his team has plenty to improve.

"Everything," Gillispie said when asked what improvements UK needed. "We couldn't make a shot. We didn't move the ball quick enough. We were not playing exactly the way we wanted to play. You have to be resilient. You have to understand you're not going to make some shots, but that can't determine how the rest of your game goes."

Patterson said the Cats may have overlooked Stony Brook a little despite insisting that the players would not worry about No. 1 UNC until after they had knocked off the Seawolves. But now, he said, it is time to get ready for the Tar Heels.

"We just have to go to practice and get prepared," Patterson said. "Their whole team is stacked and loaded. We'll have a tough game on our hands."

## SMITH

Continued from page 1

Start with the penetration. Senior Ramel Bradley has never been the best ball-distributing guard. Sophomore guard Derrick Jasper is still on the shelf with a knee injury, and sophomore guard Michael Porter is still searching for his role on the team as either a passer or a shooter.

Even if one of those players is able to get in the lane and make a good pass, which was rare last night, UK still has to put the ball in the basket.

The big men have the responsibility of standing at the free-throw line catching entry passes. Sophomore forwards Perry Stevenson and Mark Coury have a hard time with this because of hand and decision issues.

Ideally, freshman forward Patrick Patterson is better suited for this, but with him at the free-throw line, UK doesn't

have a big man good enough to work the baseline and score tough, inside baskets. The Cats tried both combinations against Stony Brook, and they struggled in both sets. Either way, UK head coach Billy Gillispie said the Cats didn't get the ball to Patterson — whom he called UK's "best player" — enough.

"I think we didn't get the ball moving enough on the zone," senior guard Joe Crawford said. "And it doesn't help when shots are not falling."

Therein lies UK's other zone problem: shooting.

As streaky as Bradley is at passing, he's even streakier as a shooter. He often times will hit a three, then follow it up with a contested and hurried three.

Crawford is the same way, and sophomore guard Jodie Meeks doesn't appear to be coming back any time soon.

After that, freshman guard Alex Legion seems to be UK's next best long-range threat.

"We didn't attack the gaps," Gillispie said. "We let those guys not guard us, basically."

"They didn't guard the top," he said. "They didn't guard the wings for the most part in the first half. We stood there and held the ball and basically guarded ourselves."

Gillispie also said after the game that the Cats did a good job against the zone, but they struggled shooting. That's confusing.

Speaking of confusing, Stony Brook knew it could confuse UK with a zone. What if North Carolina finds out about this by Saturday? When he sees this score,

North Carolina head coach Roy Williams will probably watch the tape. Luckily for the Cats, the Tar Heels won't need to zone against the Cats, because unlike the Seawolves, they're athletic and deep enough to play man-to-man.

But Louisville won't have that luxury. Because of depth issues due to injuries, and with the way UK struggles against it, the Cats will likely be in a zone.

So too will Indiana, Alabama-Birmingham, Houston and others in the Cats' upcoming schedule if they are smart. That gives UK plenty of chances to fix the zone problems before Southeastern Conference play begins.

If they don't, the Cats might get zoned out of the Big Dance.

Jonathan Smith is a journalism senior. E-mail: jsmith@kyk.com.

## VOLUNTEERING

Continued from page 1

builds houses for those in need.

Cheryl Hall, Habitat for Humanity's Lexington volunteer coordinator, encouraged students to apply to volunteer at the organization's ReStore locations.

The stores are located on Southland Drive and Industry Road, and sell gently used furniture at reduced prices. Those interested

in volunteering can visit the Lexington Habitat for Humanity Web site ([www.lex-habitat.org](http://www.lex-habitat.org)).

The Kentucky Horse Park is also looking for volunteers this winter.

"The volunteer duties are very varied, ranging from helping in the offices, interacting with the public, to mucking out stalls in the barn," said Georgina Bear, Kentucky Horse Park director of volunteers. "It all depends on what the volunteer prefers. I like

to say there is something for every one here."

Volunteers have to be at least 18 years old but no experience with horses is needed. More information is available on the Kentucky Horse Park Web site ([www.kyhorsepark.com](http://www.kyhorsepark.com)).

More information on volunteering in the community and on the Center for Community Outreach is available on its Web site ([www.uky.edu/VolunteerCenter](http://www.uky.edu/VolunteerCenter)).

## UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CRIME REPORT

UK Police reports from Nov. 20 to Nov. 26.

- Nov. 20** Theft of computer reported from Dickey Hall at 2:19 p.m.
- Nov. 20** Arrest after a traffic stop reported on the corner of Avenue of Champions and Lexington Avenue at 6:01 p.m.
- Nov. 20** Arrest for alcohol intoxication reported at UK Hospital at 6:18 p.m.
- Nov. 20** Theft of wallet reported from W.T. Young Library at 7:38 p.m.
- Nov. 20** Theft of jacket and cell phone reported from Parking Garage No. 8 at 10:01 p.m.
- Nov. 21** Theft of two computers reported from Oliver H. Raymond Civil Engineering Building at 8:19 a.m.
- Nov. 21** Theft of computer equipment reported from Pence Hall at 11:34 a.m.
- Nov. 21** Injury accident reported from the corner of South Limestone Street and Conn Terrace at 11:38 a.m., referring to a flipped vehicle.
- Nov. 21** Theft of laptop reported from UK Hospital at 1:23 p.m.
- Nov. 21** Theft of bike reported from University Apartment Housing on Rose Lane at 1:44 p.m.
- Nov. 22** Alcohol intoxication reported from the corner of Rose Street and Huguely Drive at 5:23 a.m.
- Nov. 23** Assault reported from UK Hospital at 12:05 p.m., referring to a doctor and nurse being kicked by a patient.
- Nov. 23** Theft of wallet reported from UK Hospital at 3:48 p.m.
- Nov. 24** Fire reported from the corner of South Limestone Street and Conn Terrace at 2:40 a.m.
- Nov. 24** Theft of laptop reported from Smith Hall at 11:41 a.m.
- Nov. 24** Arrest for sexual assault reported from Commonwealth Stadium at 2:55 p.m.

- Nov. 24** Arrest for theft reported from Commonwealth Stadium at 2:49 p.m.
- Nov. 24** Arrest for disorder reported from Commonwealth Stadium at 3:56 p.m.
- Nov. 24** Arrest for alcohol intoxication reported from Commonwealth Stadium at 1:40 p.m. and at 4:37 p.m.
- Nov. 24** Arrest for DUI reported from the Orange Lot at 7:14 p.m.
- Nov. 24** Drug use reported from Greg Page Apartments at 8:19 p.m.
- Nov. 24** Assault reported from VA Medical Center at 8:14 p.m., referring to a man who had been catering the UK game and received a bleeding face from a suspect.
- Nov. 25** Burglary of TV reported from the Student Center at 11:35 a.m.
- Nov. 26** Arrest for disorder reported from UK Hospital at 2:44 a.m.
- Nov. 26** Fire reported from between Greg Page and Commonwealth Stadium at 2:47 a.m.
- Nov. 26** Theft reported from UK Hospital at 10:02 a.m.
- Nov. 26** Theft reported from Commonwealth Stadium at 10:43 a.m.
- Nov. 26** Theft reported from UK Hospital at noon.
- Nov. 26** Assault reported from Greg Page Apartments at 2:02 p.m.
- Nov. 26** Theft of composite picture reported from Sigma Chi House at 3:59 p.m.
- Nov. 26** Theft of backpack and wallet reported from Seaton Center at 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 26** Alcohol intoxication reported from Samaritan Hospital at 11:44 p.m.

Compiled from reports at UK Police Department • by staff writer Alice Haymond • E-mail: [ahaymond@kyk.com](mailto:ahaymond@kyk.com).



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## Research Studies at UK

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# OPINIONS

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### ■ KERNEL EDITORIAL

## UK takes a positive step by recognizing distinguished profs

UK recently recognized seven of its professors as the first Provost's Distinguished Service Professors, a Nov. 13 Kernel article reported.

Provost Kumble Subbaswamy selected the professors from nominations by the deans of their respective colleges for high achievements and contributions to the university, the article reported.

It's easy to leave educators underappreciated, and it's encouraging to see UK taking an initiative to recognize these distinguished professors.

This honor carries significant meaning to its recipients, Richard Haug, executive associate dean and professor in the College of Dentistry, said in the Kernel that it is the "single most important honor" in his professional career.

While the recognition itself is important, the award is more than an empty title.

The appointment of Distinguished Service Professor is for three years. Each of the recipients will be given \$10,000 for each of the three years, and can use the money for research or as a salary stipend, Subbaswamy said in the article.

We find the monetary component of the award necessary because not only does it serve as an incentive, it can also help the recipients make

even more contributions to the university.

Haug said in the Kernel he plans to use the money for dues to institutional committees that he belongs to and for books and travel expenses, which he usually pays out of his pocket.

This administration is well known for its commitment to research and has received criticism for neglecting areas that do not have that focus, especially in undergraduate education. It is a well-coming sight to see that this award is intended for more than distinguished researchers.

This administration is well known for its commitment to research and has received criticism for neglecting areas that do not have that focus, especially in undergraduate education.

The recognized professors include James Campbell, a percussionist in the School of Music, Nikky Finney, a professor in the English department, and Carol Riker, a professor in the College of Nursing and recipient of the 2001 Louise J. Zager Undergraduate Teaching Award.

In UK's quest for top-20 status, the administration must realize that professors are an integral part of the plan. It should also realize that professors are more than researchers; their first priority should be teaching.

Establishing this award is a proper step toward top-20 status, but UK should not stop here offering better treatment to its professors, especially to those who distinguish themselves in teaching.

### ■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Don't forget illegal immigrants are humans too

This is in response to Carl Ross' letter to the editor in the Nov. 20 Kernel regarding my Nov. 16 column on illegal immigration.

My column was not an opinion letter but a series of facts regarding illegal immigration. I would like to explain how Ross' stand and mine are much closer than many could think and why it is indeed up to all of us to solve the problem of illegal immigration.

I am a native of Costa Rica, born to immigrants from Spain. I have also lived and worked in three different countries. Most of my family members are either low-income or working-class. My father is a mechanic and my brother is a plumber, and they often have to unfairly compete with colleagues who "hire" undocumented workers the same way Ross describes in his letter.

My column was not in support of illegal immigration but of its main victims: poor, displaced, voiceless, hard-working human beings. I oppose illegal immigration in the United States and the rest of the world, yet I don't believe domestic macroeconomic factors to be a main argument in the discussion.

My opposition is based on: 1) more than 400 people die each year while

crossing the Mexican border into the United States; 2) the wages of low-income workers are the most affected by uncontrolled immigration; 3) law-abiding employers are forced to lower the wages and benefits of their workers; 4) countries lacking humane labor laws keep bleeding their citizens while "disposing" of those who will not submit to exploitation; and 5) citizens lose respect for democratic institutions and resort to pseudo-populist leaders.

Let us, Mr. Ross, oppose Kentucky Utilities' immoral decision to cut off electricity to undocumented workers this winter.

Let us, instead, foster legal immigration by granting residency to hard-working legal aliens who have held a job for several years; let laws be passed that will help business owners fill in the jobs nobody will do at a low yet decent wage and report those who exploit workers so that the "developed" world does not become dependent on state-sanctioned slavery and all of us can make a decent wage.

Let us not take out our frustrations on the most vulnerable but rather engage civically in resolving the issue at all levels of government.

Javier Puerto

Part-time Hispanic studies instructor

### Submissions

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

E-mail [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com)

### Columnists Needed

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E-mail [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com)

### Cartoonists Needed

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E-mail [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com)



DON WRIGHT, The Palm Beach Post

## Increasingly prolonged Christmas celebrations damage holiday spirit

It's Christmas already? I don't ask that in a nostalgic, I can't-believe-it's-already-time-for-cookies-and-eggnog-again way. The question comes from the amazement I seem to go through every year as we're forced into the holiday spirit long before anyone feels like being cheerful.

Christmas decorations have been filling up stores since before Halloween, and holiday music crept over our radios before Thanksgiving.

Typically, I would be all for anything that comes from giant corporations flexing their muscles as they find more ways to make money but this is not irritating.

There's no reason for us to have been bombarded with holiday cheer while we were dealing with midterms.

And now, as we all prepare ourselves for the inevitably spirit-crushing week of finals, sleigh bells and Christmas carols are the last thing we want to hear.

Retailers aren't the only companies making a killing off of this unreasonably long season of St. Nick.

TV stations, which bring all our holiday favorites like "It's a Wonderful Life" and "White Christmas" into

our homes, are capitalizing off this early cheer to a point well beyond insanity.

It's typical to see stations running a series of specials where they countdown to Christmas — or any holiday for that matter — but this year I was dumfounded when I noticed one network running a countdown to their countdown to Christmas.

What use to be 12 days of Christmas, which turned into 25 days of Christmas, is growing closer and closer to six months of Christmas every year.

Maybe we should spend an entire year drinking hot chocolate and sitting in traffic in front of Fayette Mall — that would really capitalize on the holiday spirit! We could celebrate Christmas every other year if we turned the holiday into a 12-month celebration.

But then we might start having a countdown to the year-long Christmas.

Don't get me wrong here. I love Christmas. I too find myself getting duped into the warmth of the holiday spirit earlier and earlier every year.

I'm just as susceptible to green and red decorations as the next guy. Just recently, I walked into Starbucks and was greeted by an explosion of holiday spirit.

And I'll be honest, I was excited. But then I thought about it.

Am I going to be as excited about my red cups and cheerful decorations once Christmas actually roles around?

The answer, unfortunately, is probably not. Although I can never say I've been burnt out on Christmas, the warm decorations seem less exciting by the time Christmas finally gets here.

It's not even December yet and I'm already starting to get used to the holiday atmosphere.

Why can't we hold off on Christmas until December, or even until we can quit worrying about finals and enjoy the relaxing holiday?

Don't confuse this with a cliché appeal to fight the growing commercialization of the holiday and focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

After watching the explosion of Christmas and peaked this past Friday, I realized that we're just years away from watching the holiday turn into an irritating but necessary time of the year.

Maybe there's nothing we can do about this wonderful holiday that is moving from a winter celebration to an autumn shopping spree — but I'd like to think we could.

Even the most passionate of Christmas lovers complain when they see stores decorating as early as they do, and it will probably just get sooner.

It's Christmas already? How long until we can't believe Christmas decorations have started appearing in September?

Brett Nolan is a philosophy and political science sophomore. E-mail [bnolan@kykernel.com](mailto:bnolan@kykernel.com).

## Special elections provide Republicans ripe opportunity to claim state offices

With just a few short weeks left until the 2008 presidential nominating process begins with the Iowa caucuses, it seems that both sides are still searching for a favorite.

Sure Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani are national front-runners, but neither are leading in Iowa. While Oprah Winfrey courts voters for Barack Obama, and Bill Clinton

chats up the crowds in Iowa for Hillary, the Republicans are having an interesting time themselves.

In Iowa, Mitt Romney appears to be leading even though there has been a surge from second-tier candidate, Mike Huckabee. It seems the only thing Huckabee has going for him are endorsements from Chuck Norris and a campaign stop with wrestling star Ric Flair.

Romney also does well in New Hampshire, but after the money he has poured into these two states, why shouldn't he be doing well?

Rudy Giuliani continues to lead the group in national polls. Giuliani recently announced that Anne Northup will be heading up his efforts in Kentucky.

Fred Thompson has scored the endorsement of the National Right to

Life group and of 20 Republican members of the Kentucky House of Representatives.

So what does all of this mean? Honestly, not a whole lot.

A political junkie like me enjoys watching both sides duke it out. But beyond that, there is not much of a story.

By the night of Feb. 5, 2008, the majority of the states will have had a primary and the nominees should be known. Keep in mind that is three full months before Kentuckians vote in the primary.

Until early February, this horse-race coverage will be nearly all there is to talk about in the presidential race.

However, there have been some other happenings to note. In Kentucky, we will have three special elections in the upcoming weeks.

One election will be for state Sen. Dan Mongiardo's seat that he must vacate when he is sworn in as lieutenant governor. Depending on the candidates chosen to run, Republicans could pick this seat up.

Another election will be for state Rep. John Draud's northern Kentucky seat. Draud was recently hired as Kentucky's new education commissioner. The district is heavily Republican and should remain in Republican hands.

The third special election will be for former state Rep. Carolyn Belcher's seat. Bryan Beauman, a lawyer from Paris, Ky., will probably be the

Republican candidate. While the district is heavily Democratic, a vote-buying scandal has affected the Bath County Democratic party officials, as was reported by the Lexington Herald-Leader in July.

If voters are truly tired of scandal and corruption, Beauman has a legitimate chance.

Sen. Mitch McConnell's re-election finally has an opponent. While several democrats will probably compete to see which one will be defeated in November, two candidates have already filed. The first to file is Michael Cassaro He is a doctor from Oldham County. My guess is that he fails to carry his home county in the primary.

The second candidate to file, and the one I am personally wishing to be the democratic nominee, is David L. Williams.

If any of you read my columns talking about his candidacy for Commissioner of Agriculture, you will know why I hope he is the nominee.

As I have mentioned before, this is a man even the Kentucky Democratic Party will not recognize. This is truly a feat as the KDP has several people I would not associate with, such as convicted felon Carroll Hubbard.

While I believe McConnell can withstand a tough challenge, I sure do hope more top-tier candidates like these two files to challenge our senior U.S. Senator.

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Thomas Roberts is the president of UK College Republicans. E-mail [opinions@kykernel.com](mailto:opinions@kykernel.com).



## Country music rings truer in older tunes

This month, the Country Music Association held its annual award ceremony in Nashville, Tenn. Artists like Toby Keith, Rascal Flatts and Carrie Underwood were honored while comedian Jeff Foxworthy excelled, providing standard doses of redneck humor between bursts of steel guitar and wailing pop-country voices.



**JOHN CROWELL**  
Kernel columnist

Personally, I've never identified much with the vision of music presented by CMA, even though I grew up in Tennessee and around folks who are part of the stuff. The image and sound of popular country repelled me for years until recent semesters in college, when a few records introduced me to the true power of exceptional country music.

Even the most die-hard country hater would be lying to themselves if they said they didn't appreciate the sound of early country records. That is, if they've ever heard them. The scholarship of ancient blues and jazz tracks have become an accepted academic science, but early tracks by the likes of Al Hopkins and the Carter Family aren't granted the same validation. Perhaps the "mountain-people" sound and subject matter of the early songs, descended from the folk music of Appalachia, repulse the music academics of today the way the sound of Garth Brooks repulsed me in high school. Still, it's impossible to deny the unique viewpoint of this music. Country artists approached the world with a pair of salt-of-the-earth, pragmatic eyes; the songs of the early '20s and '30s approached the trials and tribulations of

work, love, loss and family in ways similar to the folk strumming of Woody Guthrie and haunting blues melodies of Robert Johnson.

The early music of Hank Williams Sr., Loretta Lynn, Dolley Parton and the like is particularly entrancing. Williams explored his own hard drinking and hard living, setting the template of country songwriting for generations of musicians like Merle Haggard and Ray Price to follow. Lynn and Parton, especially in their early material, expressed sorrow and scorn for the behavior of these boozing men. Williams' songs like "If You've Got the Money, I've Got the Time" provided a perfect foil for songs like Lynn's "Don't Come Home A Drinkin' (With Lovin' on Your Mind)." Early country music operated in many ways as a model for the continual struggle between the sexes.

Country music continued to evolve in its own right, but I am most inspired by the genres that it has influenced. Johnny Cash expanded the musical genres in which country influences were common to include blues, gospel, and even rock 'n' roll. Songs like "Folsom Prison Blues," "I've Got Stripes," "Greystone Chapel," and covers of Bob Dylan's "It Ain't Me Babe" and "Don't Think Twice It's All Right" changed commonly-held notions on the sounds and subjects a country star could tackle. Dylan himself surprised critics by adopting the country sound in 1969's

"Nashville Skyline." Heavier rock music began to include some country touches in the 1960s and '70s, most notably in bands like The Allman Brothers Band and Lynyrd Skynyrd. The sound of Southern rock didn't appeal to everyone, but it should at least be admired that the musicians were able to marry the sounds of Waylon Jennings and Led Zepplin. Today, the sounds of

Southern rock are carried on in bands like the Drive-By Truckers, while more mellow groups like Wilco have successfully merged their alt-country sound with the Jim O'Rourke-produced aesthetic of art-world, avant-garde music.

Rock revitalists The White Stripes are famous for unearthing and twisting ancient blues songs like "Stop Breaking Down" into garage-punk "blooze," but they've lent their talents to country music songs as well. The duo is famous for their haunting and blistering rendition of Parton's "Jolene." Jack White also famously produced and helped write Lynn's brilliant comeback album "Van Lear Rose" in 2004.

Country music hasn't conjoined with hip-hop the way rock has in the last twenty years. There are no landmark tracks in the country music canon of the same caliber and cultural significance of the "Walk This Way" collaboration between Run D.M.C. and Aerosmith. However, rappers like Bubba Sparxx are striving to bring the country-inspired "redneck" culture into the hip-hop world. And if the collaboration between Wyclef Jean and Willie Nelson at a local benefit concert is any indication, such commercial milestones aren't far off.

The sound of Brooks and Dunn and Shania Twain will always make me wince. Not that my reading of country music is at all objective; everything ultimately comes down to a matter of taste. Songs like Trace Adkins' recent "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk" are hard to defend, but the music of today wouldn't be as rich or soulful without the influence of "old-time" country music. Like most art, the real problem is sifting through the garbage in search of the gems.

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## Scott and his trumpet to bring jazz back to campus

Autumn Harbison  
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Jazz isn't just your grandparents' music anymore. A new generation of artists led by New Orleans native Christian Scott are bringing jazz to a whole new audience.

Scott will be performing tonight at 8 p.m. in the Student Center Grand Ballroom. The concert is sponsored by the Student Activities Board.

Josh Rupp, concerts director for SAB, predicted tonight's concert to be a moving and powerful jazz experience.

"This concert will be so musically different than any other concert brought to the university because of the genre and tone of the artist," Rupp said.

SAB formerly sponsored the Spotlight Jazz Concert Series, the longest running jazz series in

the country, but since that ended, the concert committee has wanted to bring different types of music back to UK, Rupp said.

Scott, a 22-year-old trumpeter, has been making a name for himself in the jazz world since being called "a newcomer to watch" by Billboard magazine in 2006, according to the SAB Web site.

SAB began looking to bring Scott to campus after seeing the article in Billboard, Rupp said. Scott's music and accomplishments impressed the committee, he said. "Basically this artist's style, type of music, and dominating presence really attracted us to him," said Rupp. "His music is so powerful and hits the audience with a mixture of classical jazz and modern pop rock."

Scott's album "Rewind That" was nominated for a

Grammy in the Best Contemporary Jazz Album category in 2006. Scott released his latest album, "Anthem," in August and has received positive reviews from many critics including one from The New York Times.

Rupp encouraged everyone to come out for tonight's concert to experience something different on campus. He added that acts like Scott have not been brought to the area in the past two years.

"I think this is just another great opportunity for music lovers to possibly walk away with an intriguing mindset towards a type of music they might not have discovered just quite yet or that they discovered and just haven't looked that strongly into," Rupp said.

Tonight's concert is free for UK students and general admission tickets are \$10.

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